

Inquiry likely on sharp share rise before steel bid was known

The Stock Exchange Council is likely to hold an inquiry into the sharp rise in the share price of Lye Trading Company, steel stockholders, before an agreed bid by the British Steel Corporation was announced yesterday. The BSC offer is 80p, against a share price of 38 1/2p on Thursday. It was widely suggested in the City that a BSC employee had bought a substantial block at the lower price. BSC executives regard the takeover as a necessary defence against planned similar action by Continental steelmakers. The Government has raised no objections but European authorities in Brussels will examine the situation.

Leak of information at BSC is feared

A Stock Exchange inquiry is likely into dealings in the shares of Lye Trading Company immediately before the agreed takeover bid from the nationalised British Steel Corporation. In the City yesterday it was being widely suggested that a substantial number of Lye Trading shares changed hands shortly before the bid was announced and that the buyer was an employee of British Steel Corporation. The bid for the small west Midlands steel stockholding concern was announced by BSC yesterday morning. Lye's shares rose by 9 1/2p to 81p on Thursday and anyone selling at that level would stand to make a 100 per cent profit, since the BSC's offer is at 80p, the shares closed at 72p last night.

There was concern in the City yesterday that the Stock Exchange Council should hold a formal inquiry into the affair, and certain stockjobbing firms have made known their disquiet. Wedd, Burlacher, Mordant, the City's largest stockjobber, understood to be in favour of an inquiry.

The offer comes hard on the heels of the bitter struggle by GKN over the control of Miller Druce, as well as other steel stockholding takeovers effected by GKN.

The board of Lye are unanimously recommending the offer of 80p cash for each ordinary share of 10p. Board and family interests have irrevocably undertaken to accept in respect of 3,768,319 shares, just over 46 per cent of the ordinary capital.

The Government has raised no objections to a move that highlights the end of the previous administration's policy of "letting off" but the European authorities in Brussels will be examining the competitive implications before stating their view.

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'No court can stand by and allow its orders to be defied or ignored', Sir John Donaldson tells AUEW Engineering strike call is feared after order to seize union assets

A complete strike in the engineering industry may be called next week after an order in the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday for the seizure of the financial assets of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. The order for unlimited sequestration of the funds of the union's dominant engineering section follows the failure to pay damages of £47,000 to Con-Mech, the Woking engineering firm where the union has been involved in a dispute over recognition. The deadline for payment was passed last Monday. In anticipation of the Industrial Court's ruling, the union's national committee, its governing body, meeting in Worthing last week voted for decisive industrial action in the event of further court moves to take over the union's assets. The strike call will be considered by the eight-man national executive committee on Tuesday.

The union has been given an exceptionally long period in which to fulfil its legal obligations and in which to reconsider its position. That period cannot be further prolonged. No court can stand by and allow its orders to be defied or ignored and the order that the union pay the sum of £47,000 to Con-Mech must now be enforced. Sir John said it was hardly conceivable that the union would not have £47,000 to hand. The only possible conclusion was that the union "has deliberately refused to pay in accordance with the court's order. We are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that this is the case, and that it has therefore committed a contempt of court."

Ministers angry: Ministers were angered and dismayed last night at the order to seize the AUEW's funds. Some said that Sir John Donaldson had acted maliciously (Our Political Staff writes). Ministers and Labour MPs, aware that Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, had urged the union not to boycott the Industrial Relations Court are fearful of the response of engineering workers. Some Labour backbenchers fear that Sir John's decision will be exploited by militants, and a Commons clash seems inevitable. Reading article, page 13 Law report, page 14



A study of studios visitors in Gallery 5 at the private view yesterday of the Royal Academy's 206th Summer Exhibition at Burlington House, Piccadilly. The exhibition, comprising 1,373 works, is open to the public from today until July 28.

Ransom note offers five paintings if prisoners are moved to Ulster

From Denis Taylor, Blessington, Co Wicklow. A ransom letter posted in Belfast offering the transfer to prison in Northern Ireland of the Price sisters and the two other hunger strikers, Hugh Feeney and Gerard Kelly, in return for five of the 19 paintings in the diary of Sir Alfred Beit, was received yesterday by Mr James White, director of the National Gallery of Ireland, in Dublin.

Referring to the similar demands made after the theft of the Kenwood Vermeer, he said it looked as if the IRA were involved in the Blessington robbery. Police had discounted the threat to burn three of the paintings if the £100,000 reward offered on behalf of the insurers was not withdrawn.

With the note, printed by hand on a single sheet of cheap, ruled paper, were three pages from a diary of Sir Alfred Beit, which the five raiders, led by a woman, took with them.

Police said on Thursday night they were talking that call seriously, and that developments yesterday have completely changed the emphasis on what should be considered seriously.

The four Belfast hunger strikers were jailed for their part in the London car bombings in March last year, and repeated attempts have been made to bring pressure on the British Government to move them to Northern Ireland to serve the rest of their sentences. The most spectacular demand before this robbery was that made after the theft of the Kenwood Vermeer.

The ransom note, with several misspellings, undertook to deliver the five paintings generally considered the most valuable in return for the removal of the Price sisters to Ulster. The note says: "When our demands are met, 'Lady writing a letter' (Vermeer), 'Lady in a black dress' (Goya), 'Lady reading a letter' (Metzu), 'The cavalier' (Crubens), 'The kitchen maid' (Valasse) will be delivered."

The letter received by Mr White, and passed immediately to the police, said that if the initial demand for the transfer of the prisoners was met, five paintings would be returned. The rest of the pictures would follow on payment of £500,000. It was claimed that no further contact would be made by the gang, and that unless the demands were met by May 14, the paintings would be destroyed.

Mr White appealed last night for the preservation of the pictures. He said that if the people who issued the note were Irish and patriotic and respected the traditional Irish love of civilization and culture, he felt certain they would not burn the pictures.

Chief Superintendent James Murphy, who is in charge of police investigations, said here last night that he was satisfied the demand was genuine

formation leading to recovery of the paintings. Police said on Thursday night they were talking that call seriously, and that developments yesterday have completely changed the emphasis on what should be considered seriously.

Syria's growing confidence in Kissinger approach brings hope for ceasefire

From Paul Martin, Damascus, May 3. Dr Henry Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, has laid the groundwork for what is expected to be his most exhaustive round of "shuttle diplomacy" so far in the search for a Middle East peace. As he began talks with Syrian leaders, he made it clear that important concessions from both sides were essential for progress towards disengagement on the Golan Heights front.

'The Times': a statement on move from PHS

In a statement last night, The Times management said: "We are engaged in crucial discussions with the unions about the forthcoming move from Printing House Square to Gray's Inn Road. These discussions have not been conclusive but in a letter to the staff we have emphasized that The Times must move to Gray's Inn Road, and must be produced there under reasonable conditions."

Although there has been quiet optimism by the Americans and the Syrians that Dr Kissinger's visit will achieve results, it is clear that both want to keep the talks at low key. The Americans have emphasized that, unlike the situation on the Suez front, the problem of the Golan is "not black and white."

Subject to satisfactory conditions for the move being agreed, the commercial position of The Times, although worse than last year, has encouraging features. In a period of sharply declining profitability in the newspaper industry, both the circulation of The Times and its share of the advertising market continue to rise.

His mission is being watched closely by the Egyptian President Sadat, who earlier had talks with Dr Kissinger in Alexandria, believes that the future of his own disengagement accord on the Suez front rests on the success or failure of the Syrian mission.

Commander Christopher Payne is to be head of a new Metropolitan Police division covering Heathrow airport, London, with special responsibility for counter-terrorist security.

Continued on page 6, col 7

Poll results in London deter thoughts of an early general election

Senior politicians have turned even further away from the prospect of an early general election after the London borough election results yesterday. (While the three main parties were claiming successes last night, no one was expecting the Prime Minister to promote or Mr Heath to provoke a snap election.)

	gains	losses
C	135	21
Lab	12	143
L	22	6
Other	10	9

Lord Carrington, chairman of the Conservative Party, commented: "We have started the climb back. I am greatly encouraged by the hard work of our party supporters in the London borough elections only weeks after the general election. The story of these elections is Conservative gains and Labour losses: that is the best sort of story. The Liberals have had a very different result and have clearly not made the breakthrough they hoped for."

In general election terms, however, it would have needed a massive swing towards Labour to concentrate Mr Wilson's thoughts on a June poll. While the possibility may be at the back of his mind, the size of the poll in the London elections cannot be confidently regarded as a reflection of the general attitude of the electorate nationally.

Masked men seize Spanish bank official in Paris

From Edward Mortimer, Paris, May 3. Three masked men kidnapped a Spanish bank manager in Paris this morning in front of his son and daughter. They have not yet sent any ransom request, and it is not known whether their motive was political.

One of them spoke Spanish with a South American accent, the other two spoke French. Señor Baltazar Suárez, manager of the Paris branch of the Banco de Bilbao, was in the underground garage of the block of flats where he lives in the suburb of Neuilly when the incident occurred.

He was about to get into his car to drive his two eldest children, aged 15 and 17, to school, when the three men sprang out from behind other cars parked in the garage. They turned Señor Suárez to get into his own car and drove off with him, leaving the children in the corner of the garage, bound and gagged.

Earlier the Spanish Ambassador in Paris in the person of Señor Suárez and her four children to comfort them, but the embassy said that it had no information about the kidnappers' motives. The French police have begun an investigation, but do not expect to make much progress until the kidnappers send some message.

The rest of the news

- National parks: Increased grants not intended to relieve rates, minister says 2
- Norway: British security man questioned in Ulster ill-treatment inquiry 2
- Shadow ministers: Rights of individual to be at centre of Conservative policies 2
- Open University: President of students' association resigns over finance 3
- Coal: Councils to meet board on plan for shifting pit's output by road 3
- Finance Bill: Liberals set snare for Tories with a reasoned amendment 3
- Paris: 24 hours for French to judge rival claims of election candidates 5
- Watergate: Mr Nixon chooses to meet Arizona faithful rather than Washington press 6
- Middle East: Mr Callaghan calls a conference of British envoys 6
- Moscow: Soviet teachers fear the guile of Western propaganda 6
- Saturday Review: Rise and fall of an English gentleman 7
- Sportview: The other Cup final is almost a religious rite 12
- George Hutchinson: A worrying outbreak of the galloping statement 12
- Commons TV: How MPs' stature can be enhanced 12
- North Sea gas: Norway's share of Frigg field may not be piped to Britain 17
- Sierra Leone: Eight-page special report

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HOME NEWS

Extremists on both sides blamed for six killings in Ulster

From Robert Fisk Belfast
Protestant extremists and the Provisional IRA appear to have been responsible in almost equal proportions for the most serious outbreak of violence in Northern Ireland this year.
The police in Belfast believe that Protestants were to blame for the public house explosion which killed five Roman Catholics on Thursday night, while the IRA admitted yesterday that its members had been behind the rocket attack on the Ulster Defence Regiment post in Tyrone in which a young housewife serving in the UDR was shot in the head and killed.
In the Dublin Special Criminal Court yesterday afternoon, two men were charged with being members of the IRA. They were arrested near the Ulster border a few hours after the attack on the UDR. But the Provisional IRA's operations in East Tyrone said that there were to be more rocket and mortar attacks on the part-time regiment.



Professor Max Beloff, principal of University College at Buckingham, with Lord Hailsham, of St Marylebone, who unveiled a foundation plaque yesterday. The college is to be financed solely by fees and endowments, ultimately becoming an independent university.

Liberals to contest Mr Short's constituency

By Our Political Editor
Mr Edward Short, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, will have a Liberal opponent at Newcastle upon Tyne, Central, at the next general election. This is the smallest constituency in England and in February he had a straight fight with a Conservative. But the Liberal Party yesterday announced plans for a candidate.
Councillor Peter Freitag, of Darlington, leader of the Liberal Group of Durham County Council and chairman of the Association of Liberal Councillors, informed Liberal headquarters that a Liberal candidate is to be adopted in Mr Short's constituency.
Meanwhile, Liberal MPs and the party's councillors' association are to increase pressure for an effective system of public registration of outside interests both at Westminster and in town halls.

National parks grants 'not intended to relieve rates'

Mr Howell, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, said yesterday that the Government grants for national parks were intended to provide additional resources, and not to relieve the rates or to enable county councils to switch resources. He was speaking at the National Farmers' Union conference at Great Marlow.
The minister's remark was prompted by the article, entitled 'Are the national parks allowing the grass to grow under their feet?' which appeared in The Times last Saturday. It suggested that part of the usual block grant of £1m being provided for national parks this year was being used by some county councils not to swell the total available for the national parks but to shift the cost from the ratepayer to the taxpayer.
Mr Howell said that if that was happening administrators would have to look at the grants again. County councils must play fair with the rest of the country in this matter. He pointed out that the grants were not intended to relieve the rates but to provide additional resources. He said that the grants were not intended to relieve the rates but to provide additional resources. He said that the grants were not intended to relieve the rates but to provide additional resources.

Major parties claim successes in polls that lived up to predictions

By Christopher Warman Local Government Correspondent
The London borough elections which took place quietly on Thursday in the shadow of the general election, and left in peace by opinion polls, have produced results that were not only predictable but which had been predicted by the major parties.
The Conservatives gained Harrow, Merton and Bexley, or more accurately, regained them, for each had been strongly controlled by that party before the 1971 elections. But 1971 was held on to what it gained then, it would have been a rare and continuing victory.
While the Conservatives could point happily to those three boroughs, Labour remained in control in Enfield, if only by a whisker, Labour was able to say that it had managed to repulse the opposition in Hillingdon, a key marginal, and had emerged from the dust of the election in control of a majority of the 32 London boroughs.
Results were slow to be announced, because boroughs had to make constituency plans and take on inexperienced staff after members of the National and Local Government Officers Association refused to cooperate in organizing the polls and helping with the counting.
The elections all took place as arranged, however, and it was clear last night, in the absence of the final results, that the Conservatives had made a similar loss. The Liberals had least cause for celebration.
They more than doubled their representation on the boroughs from the previous number of 22 councillors, but they had hoped, with a field of two in every three of the 1,867 seats, to make greater headway.
The party did achieve solid breakthroughs in Richmond, Harrow and Sutton, taken 22 seats, including 17 gains. Among the successful squad at Sutton was Mr Graham Tope, Liberal hero of the Sutton and Cheam by-election, who was narrowly defeated in the recent general election. He is now back in politics and will doubtless make his presence felt.
A party spokesman said: "Obviously we were disappointed not to gain more seats. But there was good news in some of the boroughs, and we fought in some areas we had not fought before. We are steadily building up, and this must be our best result in the London elections."
The party will be particularly pleased that Dr Eric Ridge, a general practitioner in Enfield, whose family has lived in the borough for generations, and who is chairman of the London Liberal party, finally, after several attempts, took a seat in the borough.
Enfield produced the closest results, with Labour, hopeful of capturing the borough, keeping its 29 seats but failing to win any, and the Liberals taking one from the Conservatives, to give the final result as Conservative 30 councillors, Labour 29 and Liberals 1. The Conservatives remain control with their five aldermen, and five aldermanic vacancies to be filled in 1978, when the aldermanic system ends.
The fringe parties failed to make an impact, and the environmentalists Save London and Save Westminster campaigners could have expected to do better.
The City of Westminster had the remarkable result of no changes either way, leaving the Conservatives in control. This disappointed Mr Illyd Harrington, Labour minority leader on the council, who looked to the elections as Labour's chance to break through to this rich prize.
The boroughs Labour lost were those the Conservatives believed they would win. Labour acknowledged it might lose them; and in elections that is an explanation of a loss. As a Conservative in Merton said after the result, which put the party back in control: "We won because we should never have lost in 1971."
Harrow was Labour's prize in 1971 with the help of two Liberals, who were swept out with some Labour members to let the Conservatives back this time. No party was surprised.
Labour lost seats all over London, although it held votes in the outer areas. The effect of London's municipalization policies may have encouraged Conservatives to go to the polls to try to keep their boroughs in the hands of those who oppose the policies.
There was no pattern in the gains and losses. The Conservatives hoped to make gains in three figures and they did so, although they lost a few seats here. But there was no result in Childs Hill ward in Barnet, which showed the Labour gains against the general swing. There may be a recount in the ward because of the possibility that some votes were lost.

Security man questioned in ill treatment inquiry

From Christopher Walker Stavanger
An unidentified member of the British security forces spent a grueling four hours yesterday morning answering detailed and often angry questions from Irish lawyers about his alleged ill-treatment of an IRA suspect introduced on August 9, 1971.
The witness was the first soldier or Royal Ulster Constabulary man to be cross-examined before the European Commission of Human Rights about claims that British treatment of Irish internees amounted to torture.
To prevent any retaliation by the Provisionals at a later date, the lawyers were only permitted to know the man's rank; his true name and identity were withheld even from members of the commission's secretariat.
Yesterday was the first time the commission's secretariat heard Britain's defence from one of the men who took part in the alleged beating and in-depth interrogation in Ulster, which the Irish claim breaches Article Three of the Human Rights Convention.
The hearing, in camera, unlike any which have taken place before, was staged at a military airport under a heavy guard of Norwegian troops and security police. When the witness was escorted from the barracks but where he is confined with 29 other British witnesses, attempts were made to prevent him being seen from the perimeter road.
Plain-clothes soldiers and Scotland Yard men flew here during this week in an RAF Britannia to take part in the massive security operation.
British intelligence experts believe that the 30 soldiers and RUC plain-clothes officers called to give evidence are among the most wanted men on the IRA's list of suspects. For that reason a 24-hour guard has been mounted around the huts in which they are living before being called by the commission.
While the commissioners attempt to discover exactly what took place in the Ulster detention centres, the British legal team is arguing that any individual act of ill-treatment was not an "administrative act" sanctioned by the Government. The witnesses there, forth being questioned under oath about where and from whom they received their orders.
Now that the British witnesses have begun to give evidence, any chance of a friendly settlement between the two countries being reached quickly appears to have disappeared.

Record £102,833 paid for Salvador Dali painting

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent
Two sales of Impressionist and modern paintings and drawings at Park Bonnet, New York, on Thursday confirmed recent high selective trends. Prices for nineteenth-century works tended to be disappointing, as were those for some twentieth-century works although a handful went very high.
In particular, it was a great day for the Surrealists. Salvador Dali's 'Resurrection of the Flesh', a painting of a panel view of a landscape, reached £102,833. That was in the range for a painting of this size, established by a previous sale of a similar work, but nevertheless established a new auction record for the artist, and indeed for any Surrealist painting.
There were several fine works by Max Ernst, whose prices are substantially ahead of expectations. 'Coupé etrotionement enlacé dans les nuages', a painting of a landscape, reached £23,000 (£25,823). 'La fleur du désert', a painting of a landscape, reached £20,000 (£22,823). 'Figure', of 1929, expected to be the most expensive, made £20,000 (£22,823). These results put Ernst's work in a new price bracket.
Other records included an early Dadaist work, 'Francisco Pizarro', by the artist's brother, Juan Pizarro, which reached £11,000 (£12,125), and a real surprise, doubling estimate at £90,000 (£97,500), 'Femur', a composition of 1924, which reached £25,000 (£27,500) and Marino Marini's 'Equestrian bronze "Carabere"', of 1949, at \$160,000 (£66,667).

Retrial in baby case after QC withdraws

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday ordered a retrial in the case of a young couple alleged to have brutally battered their baby son.
The husband, Victor Taylor, aged 19, had blamed his wife, Janice, aged 21. He said: "I agree the baby had terrible injuries. Apparently someone battered that baby, but it was not me. I am saying my wife battered the child."
The trial was adjourned for 24 hours until yesterday, when Mr Oliver Popplewell, QC, for the defence of Mr Taylor asked for the judge's permission to withdraw from the case. He said that as a result of the adjournment Mrs Taylor would not be giving evidence and added: "In the circumstances it would be embarrassing for myself and my junior to continue to act for Mr Taylor."
The judge discharged the jury and ordered a retrial.
The Taylors, both of Peonhill, Luton, Bedfordshire, had denied two charges of cruelty to their son, Allan.

First by-election on May 23

The by-election in Newham, South, caused when Sir Elwyn Jones, now Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, was created a peer, is to be on May 23. The writ was issued yesterday (our political staff writes).
In the general election Sir Elwyn had a majority of 18,583. The Labour prospective parliamentary candidate is Mr Nigel Spearing.
General election result: Sir Elwyn Jones (Lab), 22,952; Mr Ivor Shipley (L), 5,369; Mr Frank Fox (C), 4,422; Mr M. Lobb, (Nat Front), 2,511. Lab maj, 18,583.

Mr Deedes chosen

Mr William Deedes, Conservative MP for Ashford, has been appointed chairman of the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration in its inquiry into employment begun in the last Parliament.

Rights of individual at centre of Tory thinking

By Our Political Staff
Conservative shadow ministers are carrying out a re-appraisal of party policy, with the rights of the individual at the centre of their thinking.
This emerged after their day-long meeting yesterday in which there was much talk about the failure of communication and the alienation of the individual.
The premises for such policy-making is neither new to Conservative views nor the monopoly of their party, but Mr Heath and his colleagues are hoping to bring forward new approaches to the issue.
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Stairway change 'might have saved lives'

If Glasgow Rangers Football Club had spent £30,000 on improvements to stairway 13, the 1971 Ibrox disaster, in which 66 people died, might have been avoided, Mr Malcolm Threlfall, a construction and engineering expert, said at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday.
He was giving evidence on the fifth day of the £27,000 damages action brought by Mrs Margaret Douglas, of Fairley Road, Clydebank, a widow of one of the victims. He said certain modifications were needed at Ibrox "following earlier incidents in 1961, 1965 and 1969".
There should have been guide barriers at the head of the staircase to control the crowds before they reached the stairway. He also suggested that the number of steps and flights of steps on stairway 13 was "excessive".
The hearing continues on Monday.

Mrs Williams's husband seeks divorce

Solicitors acting for Mrs Shirley Williams, the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, issued the following statement last night:
A petition for divorce has been filed by Professor Williams against his wife, Mrs Shirley Williams. The grounds on which the petition is based are that the parties have lived apart for a period of two years preceding the filing of the petition.
Mrs Williams unsuccessfully sought a reconciliation with her husband. Professor Williams has visited the wife in the past but for no one else. Mrs Williams feels that in the circumstances she should not refuse her consent to the divorce.
The couple were married in 1955 and have one daughter. Mrs Williams, aged 43, MP for Hertford and Stevenage, has been a prominent figure in the Labour movement for many years and in the previous Government was a minister of state at the Home Office (a Staff Reporter writes).
Professor Bernard Williams, aged 45, is the Knightsbridge Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge and a fellow of King's College.

London borough election results

In the following results the party controlling each borough before the elections is shown in brackets after the name of the retiring aldermen are shown as vacant seats. The figures include aldermen remaining in office until 1978, when all aldermanic seats disappear. Results in some boroughs were not available yesterday.
BARKING (Lab) - Lab 45, Ratapayers 4 (4 vacant). No gains or losses. No change.
BARNET (Lab) - Lab 46, Lab 44, Lab 42, Lab 40, Lab 38, Lab 36, Lab 34, Lab 32, Lab 30, Lab 28, Lab 26, Lab 24, Lab 22, Lab 20, Lab 18, Lab 16, Lab 14, Lab 12, Lab 10, Lab 8, Lab 6, Lab 4, Lab 2, Lab 1. No gains or losses. No change.
BARNET (Lab) - Lab 46, Lab 44, Lab 42, Lab 40, Lab 38, Lab 36, Lab 34, Lab 32, Lab 30, Lab 28, Lab 26, Lab 24, Lab 22, Lab 20, Lab 18, Lab 16, Lab 14, Lab 12, Lab 10, Lab 8, Lab 6, Lab 4, Lab 2, Lab 1. No gains or losses. No change.
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Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section containing maps of the UK and Europe, and detailed weather data for various locations including London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. Includes sections for 'Today', 'Tomorrow', and 'Yesterday' with temperature and wind speed forecasts.

HOME NEWS

President of Open University students resigns over finance

By Tim Devlin, Education Correspondent

Mr Eric Begbie, president of the Open University's students' association, has resigned after a dispute with his council over giving more autonomy to the association's 70 branches.

Mr Begbie said his scheme to allow the branches to decide how much money they should collect from their members and to retain most of it was rejected. Instead, Mr Rex O'Hare, the association's general secretary, was invited to present a paper opposing the scheme at the next council meeting.

The association has 10,000 members, each contributing a yearly subscription of £1 to the central council.

Mr Begbie said yesterday: "Mr O'Hare is a servant of the council and has no right to contribute to the debate."

Mr Begbie, aged 29, is director of social work for the City Council. He is studying for an honours degree in social sciences. He is the association's second president. The first, Mrs Millie Marsland, later became vice-president but resigned this year because of pressure of work.

Warning on grants: University Vice-Chancellors welcomed the

Liberals set a Budget snare for the Tories

By Our Political Editor

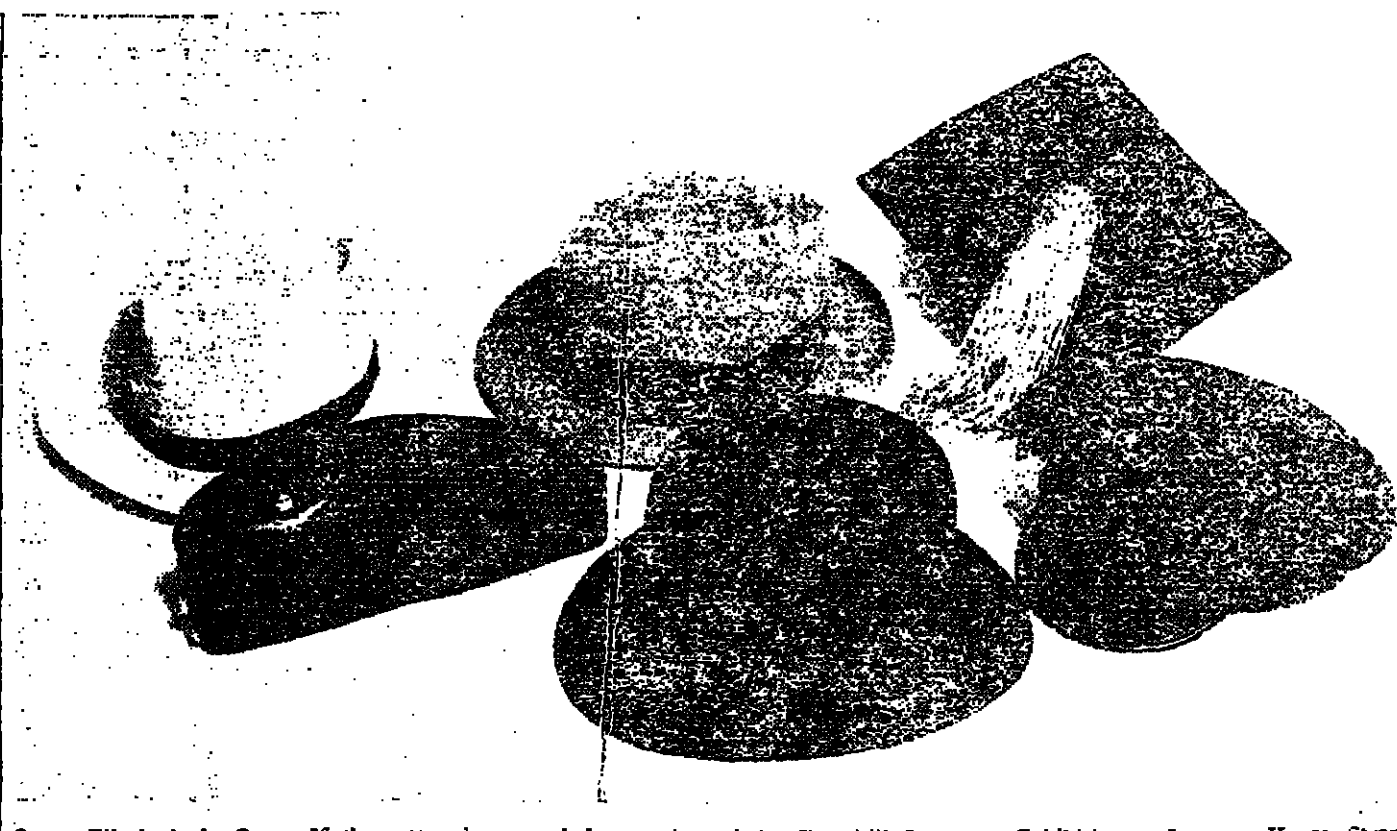
Liberals yesterday set another snare for Mr Heath and the Shadow Cabinet by announcing that they will table a reasoned amendment for next Thursday declining to give a second reading to the Finance Bill, the legislative form of Mr Healey's Budget.

Liberal tactics in the Commons are to provoke Mr Heath and the Conservatives into battles with the Labour Government which they can neither refuse with dignity nor engage in at a strength that might give Mr Wilson an excuse to say the Government is being denied the opportunity to govern.

The Conservative Party does not want an early election, and therefore the Liberals are devising occasions for demonstrating their timidity.

As framed by Mr John Pardo, the Liberal spokesman on Treasury affairs, the reasoned amendment to the second reading has been designed to condense the widespread opinion of the Conservative rank and file.

It reads: "That this House declines to give a second reading to the Finance Bill, which does nothing to stop the rate of inflation rising to a level which is a danger to democracy, fails to protect those on lower incomes who suffer most from inflation, and yet increases the level of unemployment."



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother yesterday attended a preview of the Churchill Centenary Exhibition at Somerset House, Strand, which opens to the public today. Among the many possessions of Sir Winston on display is this collection of his hats.

Council talks on plan to move pit's coal by road

From Ronald Kershaw, Leeds

Environmental aspects of National Coal Board proposals to move by road 2,000 tons of coal a day from a new drift mine at Royston, near Barnsley, will be discussed between the board and officials of West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire metropolitan county councils, and Wakefield and Barnsley metropolitan district councils, when the planning application is submitted shortly.

In a preliminary outline submission the board has said the coal will go to power stations at Wakefield, Leeds, Dewsbury and Elland.

A West Yorkshire board official said a working party of officers of the four local planning authorities affected was investigating the preliminary submission with the board and with British Rail and the Central Electricity Generating Board. They would try to secure basic areas of agreement and to advise the authorities of the full circumstances and background to the intended formal planning application.

Referring to transport, Mr A. John Rees, West Riding County Council executive director of planning, said the planning sub-committee was aware of the concern of many people.

The Royston Drift mine will cost £2m, produce an estimated 400,000 tons a year from reserves of more than 10 million tons.

Money debasement nettle 'must be grasped', MP says

By Our Political Editor

It was profoundly significant that this week the editor of *The Times* should have argued at such length and with such vigour for a return to the gold standard and the consequential monetary disciplines.

Mr Peter Thorneycroft (now Lord Thorneycroft) as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1957.

"I am sure", Mr Biffen said, "that in future times students will look back at those years and see much significance in the Cabinet differences which led to the resignation of Lord Thorneycroft and his fellow Treasury ministers."

Today, Mr Biffen continued, substantial growth in government activity had made its honest financing ever more daunting. As the Government had resorted to printing money and rigging interest rates lower than would otherwise be the case, so the pace of inflation had developed.

Britain was living on borrowed time. Inflation could not continue at its present rate without fearful economic and social consequences. "I have not sought to conceal that a policy to fight inflation is bound to produce initial hardship while economic expectations are adjusted to the new situation. It requires a political will and resolution that has a sense of perspective, and where horizons are not limited to the principle that a week is a long time in politics."

Mr Biffen, an economic adviser and director of a management consultancy firm, was one of the ablest lieutenants of Mr Enoch Powell in his early years in the Commons. He still shares Mr Powell's economic views, although for some time he has established a parliamentary and party reputation of his own that makes it invidious to call him a Powellite.

Oil company man awarded a record £89,068

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

Mr Ian Huskisson, aged 31, a former executive with a major oil company, whose career was wrecked when he was crippled in a road accident, was awarded record damages of £89,068 with costs in the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

Mr Huskisson, now a clerk with the company, is paralysed from the waist down and must spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. Mr Justice Kilner Brown said. Making the award, the judge praised Mr Huskisson, of Temple Road, Sale, Cheshire, for his "indomitable courage and determination".

The judge added: "He had been married for three months to an attractive, charming, and talented young woman. He had just tasted life to the full and for 30 years, his life expectancy, he will realize what has been snatched from him."

The judge said Mrs Sandra Huskisson, aged 26, had shown great devotion in helping her husband.

The award was against the personal representatives of Mr John Barry Holmes, who was killed when his van collided with Mr Huskisson's car on the Chester-Manchester road at Hartford, Cheshire, in July, 1971. The defendants, who admitted liability, were given a stay of execution for 28 days to consider an appeal.

In brief

Swine disease controls ended

All restrictions in swine vesicular disease "controlled areas" are to be ended from midnight tomorrow, but they will remain in force on premises where the disease has been confirmed, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday.

Since the disease was first confirmed in Britain in December, 1972, there have been 221 outbreaks, involving the slaughter of 130,814 pigs.

53 bomb hoax calls

Terence Ewing, aged 21, of no fixed address, a former social science student, was committed to hospital under the Mental Health Act yesterday after pleading guilty at Bow Street Magistrates' Court to seven specimen charges involving worthless cheques and two bomb hoax calls. He asked for 51 more hoax calls to be taken into consideration.

Candidate stands down

Mr Frederick Inglis, a lecturer, who was Labour candidate for Derbyshire, West, in the general election last February and in June, 1970, will not fight the division again.

Coaster hearing ends

The inquiry in London into the loss of the British coaster *Burtonia* in 1972 ended on its forty-third day yesterday and the committee, headed by Mr R. F. Stone, QC, will now sift transcripts amounting to more than 1,500,000 words.

Nurses' action warning

The Royal College of Nursing said in a statement yesterday that unless nurses' wages and conditions were improved, "action" would follow. Fair treatment for nurses was the only way to overcome the "crisis of confidence and morale".

Football death

A policeman collapsed and died during a football match between two CID teams at Cambridgehire police headquarters, Hincingbrooke Park, near Huntingdon, last night.

Correction

In the opening paragraph of his article in the Special Report on the National Health on April 25 Dr Tom Arie referred to the advances in treatment which have reduced the need for hospital admission and for long-stay hospital care. An interpolation, which was not authorized by Dr Arie, made an exception of mental illness. His point was a different one, that those very advances in psychiatry have created new problems in regard to the large residue of patients who still need long-term care.

Advertising curbs urged at environment conference

By Pearce Wright, Science Correspondent

Higher taxes on energy, curbs on advertising to damp down demand and a decrease in population were among the policies advocated at a conference called by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in London yesterday to consider the role of fiscal policies in safeguarding the environment.

The meeting, between economists, scientists and engineers, provoked some sharply contrasting views on actions needed to conserve resources, to control pollution and for industrial growth that would protect future generations.

Mr J. R. C. Lecomber, an economist, criticized the "growth men" who wanted no restriction to increasing the use of resources, but said he was not in favour of the so-called zero economic growth idea. Future generations were no longer going to be unbelievably wealthy, as some of his fellow-economists would have people believe, he said.

The centre of the pessimists' case was that the future would

Partner swindled firm of nearly £80,000

Walter Gilbert Brookes, aged 71, a partner in a London firm of chartered accountants, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to three years' imprisonment for swindling the firm of £79,891 in 14 years.

When the law finally caught up with him, Mr Justice MacKenna was told, he had filed his petition in bankruptcy. The main cause of his shortage of money was his habit, over a considerable number of years, of going on holiday abroad, the prosecution said.

Mr Brookes, of Westham Drive, Beachlands, Pevensey Bay, Sussex, pleaded guilty to five charges of stealing money belonging to Fuller, Jenks, Beecroft & Co, chartered accountants, now of Torrington Place, Bloomsbury, and three charges of falsifying accounts. He asked for 45 similar offences to be considered, the total value of these being more than £60,000.

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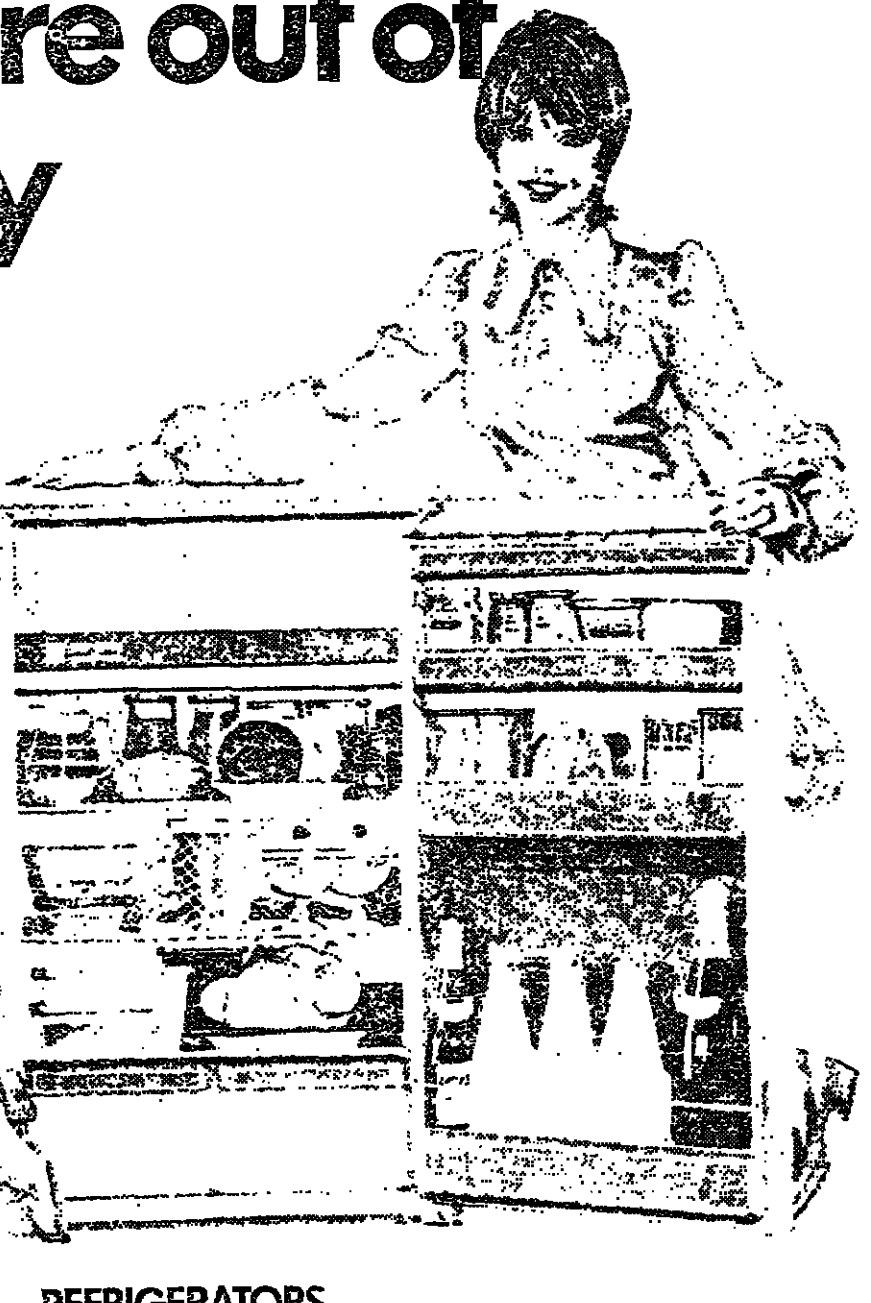
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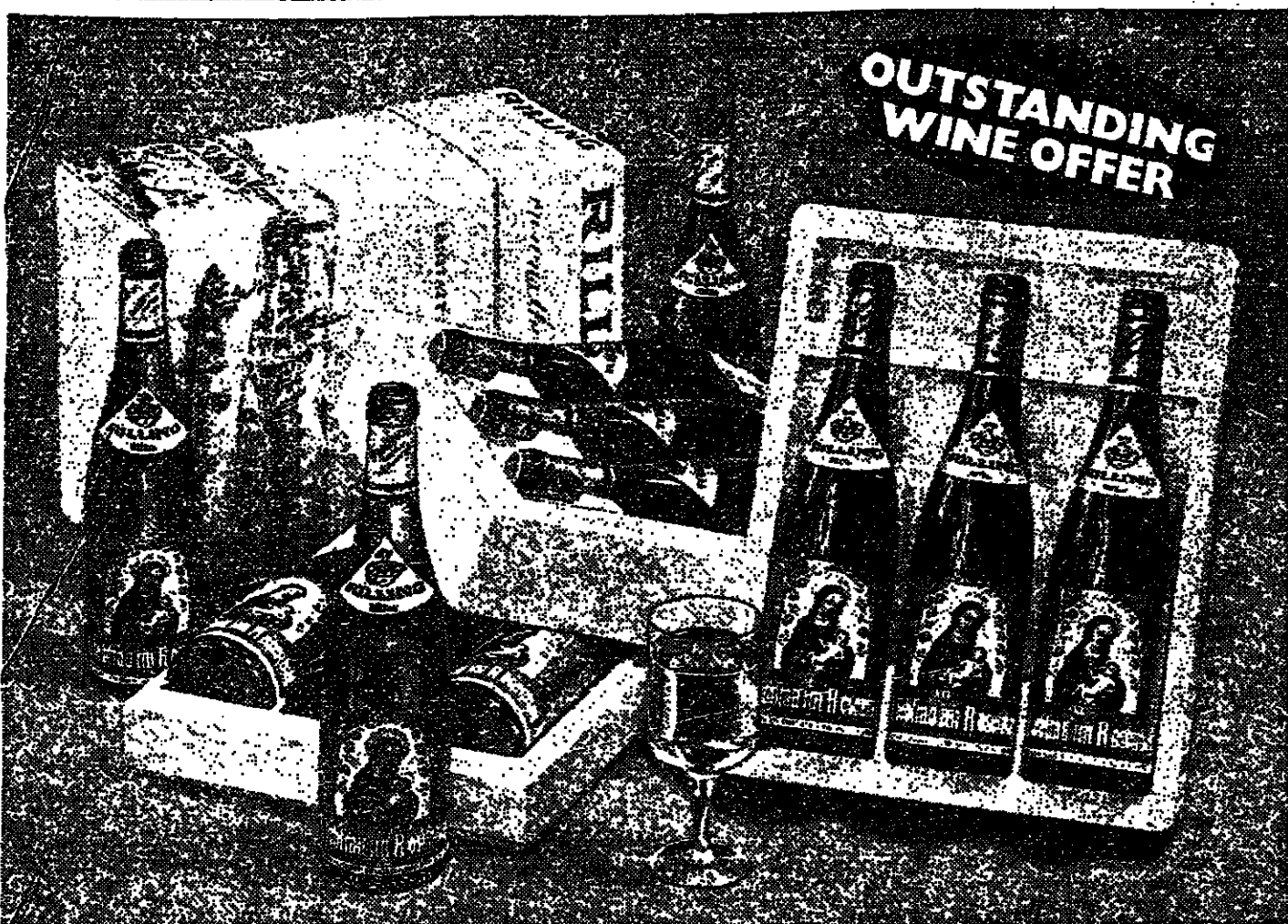
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your washing machine - and especially your electric central heating and hot water systems. Wouldn't you like to save up to one-third of your heating costs? Make your hot water go further? Drop in at your Electricity Board shop next time you're passing, and find out how to get even more value out of your electricity.

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OVERSEAS

President Nixon chooses to face the Arizona faithful rather than Washington press jokes

From Patrick Brogan Washington, May 3 President Nixon is venturing forth today, to address a rally of the Republican faithful in Phoenix, Arizona, this afternoon and to open an international fair in Spokane, Washington State, on Saturday.

His host in Arizona will be Senator Barry Goldwater, who can guarantee the President a good turnout. Arizona has been firmly conservative since the early 50s but some Republican politicians, including the Governor but not including Senator Goldwater, are seriously worried about the effects the Watergate affair will have on their chances in the November election.

The far north-western Rockies are a different matter altogether, with mostly Democratic representatives and senators and such Republicans as there are of the liberal variety. Spokane is far from anywhere with rich wheat lands watered from the Grand Coulee Dam on a plateau known as the Inland Empire, surrounded by mountains.

It is not really Nixon country and the President's reception there will be more significant than in Phoenix. Unkind people have suggested that he accepted the invitation to open the World's Fair there, known as Expo 74, in order to get out of Washington on Saturday evening.

This is the occasion of the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner. This is the one occasion in the year when the press can tell the President to his face what it thinks about him, and he is meant to sit and smile and laugh the while.

It was thought that this year the occasion might be rather painful. White House correspondents, when they are sure of their mark, have never hesitated to inflict pain in a good cause.

In April 15, 1973, they presented Mr. Nixon with a silver globe which, he said, would stand on his desk until the moment came to move it to the permanent library where his Presidency's records would be stored.

In those days no one knew anything about Mr. Nixon's avoidance of income tax by presenting his pre-presidential papers to the IRS, and no one, of course, had heard of the tapes.

Many jokes were told about Watergate, executive privilege and Mr. John Dean, and it was observed that Mr. H. R. Haldeman, then the President's chief of staff, and Mr. Richard Kleindienst, the Attorney-General, did not appear to be enjoying the jokes.

We did not learn until much later in order to make a joke that night. Mr. Dean had told all to the prosecutors and Mr. Kleindienst was shocked into tears by the discovery during an all-night meeting following the dinner.

In the past few days, America has been reading transcripts of that meeting which lasted throughout the following day (until the tape ran out) and the day after and at which Mr. Nixon, Mr. Haldeman and others who had attended the dinner had to face the fact that the Watergate cover-up was falling apart.

So this year, Mr. Nixon will be in Washington State, not Washington DC, and the correspondents' dinner will be Mr. Gerald Ford, the new Vice-President.

It will be interesting to see how many senior correspondents follow the setting star into the West and how many stay to see the rising star here.

Peter Strafford writes from New York. A new subpoena has been issued for tapes of White House conversations. This time it has come from St Paul, Minnesota, and it deals with any conversations there may have been between the President and the occupant of the White House, Wounded Knee, South Dakota, by militant Indians.

The subpoena was issued at the request of Mr. Dennis Banks and Mr. Russel Means, two of the Indian leaders, who are now on trial for their part in the occupation. Their lawyers have claimed that the tapes are necessary for their defence.

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, May 3 A charge against Mr. Jake Jacobsen, one of the lesser characters in one of the Watergate scandals, was dismissed today. Mr. Jacobsen had pleaded guilty to making a false declaration to a grand jury about \$10,000 (about £4,000) a milk producers' lobby had given him.

He was asked by a juror: "And in your testimony that the \$10,000 which you put into that bank within a number of weeks after it was given to you by Mr. Lilly, and that it was untouched by you between then and the time you looked at it with the FBI agent?"

Mr. Jacobsen replied: "That is correct." According to the prosecution, it was not the same \$10,000. Mr. Jacobsen, according to some sources, had admitted giving the money to a New York lawyer, former Governor of Texas, a close friend, for incidental expenses, political or otherwise.

When Watergate broke, it is alleged, Mr. Connally, whose presidential ambitions could be destroyed by the scandal, and Mr. Jacobsen put \$10,000 in a safe deposit box, and Mr. Jacobsen claimed it was the same money.

Chicago mayor's adviser is accused From Our Own Correspondent New York, May 3 Mr. Thomas Keane, an alderman and one of the leading Democrats in Chicago, has been indicted on charges of using his political power to promote land deals. Mr. Keane, aged 68, is a close adviser of Mr. Richard Daley, the Mayor of Chicago.

The charges against Mr. Keane are federal ones and include one count of conspiracy and 20 of mail fraud. Among the allegations are that Mr. Keane used his political power to get inside information, that he obtained the passage of specific city ordinances, and that he arranged the sale of land he himself owned to government agencies.

One woman who lived near the back of flats on Golden Gate Avenue told a San Francisco station that she identified an FBI photograph of "Cinque", the head of the S.L.A., as one of the people she had seen in the area. "Cinque" is known to be Donald D. Freese, aged 30, an escaped convict.

The flat is not far from the bank which was robbed. The flat was rented on March 20.—UPI.

Karpov defeats Spassky Leningrad, May 3.—Anatoly Karpov today defeated Boris Spassky on the thirty-fifth move of their world chess challengers' semi-final match. He now leads 3-1 and is within a game of clinching a place in the finals against Viktor Korchnoi, the Soviet grandmaster.

The first player to win four games in the 20-game series qualifies for the finals in which the challenger to Bobby Fischer, the American world champion, is selected.—UPI.

Beach mystery of 14 buried skeletons Singapore, May 3.—Police are investigating a possible mass murder on Singapore's tourist island of Sentosa, where 14 skeletons have been dug up on the island's beaches, police sources said today.

Labourers working on the beaches yesterday discovered the skeletons of seven people, male and female. Last Saturday two skeletons were found on the island, which Singapore is developing into a centre for foreign tourists.

On Tuesday five more skeletons were found and, like all the others, were taken to the city mortuary for investigation. Pathologists, anatomists and even dentists were all reported to be helping police with their investigations.

Villagers say that the beaches have never been used as a graveyard, pointing out that a proper one already exists on the small island, which is off the southern coast of Singapore.

One theory under investigation is that the skeletons were from those of prospective illegal immigrants who died on their way to Singapore and were then buried near the barren rocky promontory of south-east Sentosa by their comrades.—Reuters.

From Michael Knipe Lourenço Marques, May 3 A group of some 70 white men met in a room at a sports club here tonight in what appeared to be a first manifestation of right-wing reaction to the Lisbon junta's programme of reforms.

The convenor of the meeting, Senhor José Liman, said the fundamental factor was their determination to stay in Mozambique. Frelimo (the African guerrilla movement) should never be permitted as a political party until its members had handed in their weapons and promised unconditionally to stop fighting.

"We are solid with Angola in the rejection of premature accords with the subversive movements Frelimo or MPLA", Senhor Liman, a young businessman, said.

Several agitated speakers urged that all ideas of independence should be rejected and that Portugal should remain "one and indivisible". One, who said he was a refugee from the Congo, said Mozambiqueans were being "sold down the river just because a de Gaulle appeared".

The participants showed clearly that they were prepared to stand publicly against the current tide of social democracy.

A mass meeting of some 10,000 Africans called by the multi-racial Gumo political pressure group was wrecked here today by about 50 pro-Frelimo hecklers.

Hampered by poor amplification, Senhor Jorge Abreu, a white Mozambiquean, was shouted down by the hecklers who were displaying a banner proclaiming "away with Gumo" and shouting "Frelimo, Frelimo".

The bulk of the crowd refrained from taking up the Frelimo cry, but there was little doubting the widespread sympathy with the rebel organization.

It was an inauspicious beginning for Gumo (Grupo Unido de Mocambique) which is attempting to galvanize popular support behind a multi-racial political party.

The few whites present at the meeting, which took place in the African quarter of the city, were depressed by the turn of events and the incident is likely to re-ignite a pessimistic interpretation in South Africa and Rhodesia.

Ironically, Senhor Abreu was making the point that the coup had opened the way for Frelimo and that dialogue and peace were at hand.

The hecklers, and the rest of the vast crowd, in bitter and good humour which fortunately prevented the rally turning ugly. Military and civil police, unused to political demonstrations of any sort, were armed with machine-guns and formed up in force on near by street corners, attracting vast crowds.

Today a member of the junta arrived from Lisbon and General Basto Machado, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, arrived from military headquarters in Nampanya in the north. The two leaders

were assumed to be engaged with Senhor David Ferreira, territory's Acting Governor, in processing the various decisions handed down by the junta, including the complex business of dismantling the extensive territories of the DGS security police.

Luanda, May 3.—The Portuguese authorities released about 1,200 political prisoners from the Sao Nicolau detention camp in a remote southern area of Angola, official spokesmen said today. In addition, 85 detainees were released from the security police jail in Luanda on Wednesday.

The release of the detainees forms part of the Lisbon junta's fresh approach to Portugal's African territories.

The first official contact between the junta and Angola came today with the arrival here of Admiral Antonio Guilherme Bagulho and Captain Joao Martins Comprido.



Mrs Edith Irving leaves a Swiss jail yesterday after 14 months of a two-year sentence for her part in the Howard Hughes biography hoax. Her husband and Clifford served a sentence in New York.

Signs of Mozambique 'backlash'

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It is understood that the junta has sent the admiral to Angola to sound out opinion among the armed forces.

Admiral Bagulho and Captain Comprido spent the morning in conference with high-ranking officers here and this afternoon the admiral was meeting about 100 Naval, Army and Air Force officers.

There is great uncertainty here over the coup, with political groups keeping cautiously under cover and many whites suspicious that the junta may open talks with the guerrilla movements on the future of this oil-rich territory.—Reuters.

journal asks. By the opulence of a country so prosperous that even such costly items as fairy tale cars can be dumped along the coast.

In another interval the jockey chattered about how fashions in the West were constantly changing. He concluded his chat with the remark that at one time Marxism too, was fashionable. The purpose of this according to the journal was to show Marxism as passé.

According to the journal, the declared purpose of Radio Liberty, another Western radio station which broadcasts in the languages of the Soviet Union is to corrupt and subvert Soviet youth.

While Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty are named as the worst offenders, the BBC, the Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, Vatican Radio and Radio Israel are all accused of broadcasting "the subversive ideological propaganda of imperialism to the peoples of the socialist countries".

The journal's critic of Western broadcasts failed, however, to mention that Western radio stations owe their popularity and credibility largely to the wide gaps in Soviet coverage of world and local news.

China to show its treasures in Washington

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, May 3 An exhibition of Chinese archaeological treasures will come to Washington in December. It was first shown in Paris last year and then moved to London, under the auspices of The Times and The Sunday Times.

The principle that China should send an exhibition to the United States was first agreed by the two Governments during one of Dr Henry Kissinger's visits to China in 1972. It will be the most splendid element of the programme of cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The most popular, however, was the exchange of animals. America sent a pair of musk deer to Peking and China sent a pair of pandas.

The exhibition, which is now in Vienna, will be shown in Toronto from August 7 to November 16 and will then move to the National Gallery of Art here.

San Francisco, May 3—Four of the seven young blacks arrested here in connexion with the "Zebra Murders", have been released for lack of evidence, police announced today.

Mayor Joseph Alioto claim the seven, arrested on Wednesday, were members of a "vicious ring of murderers called the Death Angels", dedicated to killing whites.

Twelve whites have been held and six wounded on a street in San Francisco in a past five months. Eyewitnesses have consistently identified attackers as black men.

Sydney, May 3.—Seven workers dismissed after a dispute with a construction company said today they would continue their sit-in on top of a 140ft crane. The men have been there for 24 hours.

Alexandropolis, Greece, May 3.—Mark Baynes, aged 17, a British carpenter from Essex, in Surrey, was jailed here yesterday for three years for illegal possession and smuggling of hashish into Greece. Today he appealed against the sentence.

He was arrested at the Greek-Turkish border last October when customs officials found about 1lb of hashish in the car he was sharing with an American, Mr. James Michael Dixon, aged 21, an anthropology student from Indiana.

Mark Baynes was tried by a juvenile court because at the time of his arrest he was 16 years old; but the court yesterday declined to grant him extraordinary circumstances and suspend his sentence because of his age.

He pleaded not guilty to charges and said the hashish belonged to Mr. Dixon. But in preliminary interrogation immediately after his arrest, Briton asserted that the hash belonged to him.

His statement was produced as evidence in court yesterday but Mr. Karamanos said he had the original court would ignore it. He added that it was on the basis of the statement that a criminal court here acquitted Mr. Dixon two weeks ago. He was released and left for the United States. Mr. Baynes was told he would remain in prison until the appeal was heard, probably next month.

Israel adamant over terms of ceasefire

Continued from page 1 These included total compliance with the ceasefire, change of prisoners, the setting up of a free zone to be policed by a United Nations emergency force and the designation of strips where armaments and forces of both sides would be limited.

The Israeli attitude was that if Syria rejected those principles, there was no point in bargaining over "disengagement" maps.

Dr. Kissinger summarized the situation in a statement at Ben Gurion airport: "I am now going to the parents of Israeli hostages who are being held by the Government of Israel in great detail all the considerations involved in a disengagement agreement, and I will do my best to present the ideas that have emerged out of these discussions as honestly and as fairly as I can, and then return here with the Syrian ideas. We will then attempt to see how differences can be managed and dealt with."

"The negotiations will be conducted with the attitude that we seek security and peace and not the imposition of views of any party on any other party, and they have been conducted, and will be conducted, with friendship and confidence."

The sober summary was in marked contrast to the optimistic press reports from foreign sources on the eve of Dr. Kissinger's visit, claiming the parties had almost come to terms.

Before leaving Jerusalem today, Dr. Kissinger is reported to have told the families of Israeli soldiers missing on the Egyptian front that searches for the men's remains are to be resumed. Mr. Yosef Litzberg, a member of the delegation, said the Egyptian search parties search a month ago without giving any reason and that nearly 100 bodies had not been found.

Mr. Litzberg told reporters that Dr. Kissinger had said that President Sadat had promised at their meeting in Alexandria this week that the search would be resumed.

Dr. Kissinger also met a delegation of parents of Israeli prisoners of war in Syria and heard their pleas for an immediate release of the seriously wounded, for the repatriation of the remains of the dead and for better conditions for the rest.

Bangkok, May 3.—Police are studying a ransom note concerning two foreign women missionaries, one of them British, who were kidnapped last week in southern Thailand. General Prachub Suntharangkun, Chief of Police, said today. He said local police were also working out how to ensure the safety of the two missionaries.

The two women, Miss Minka Hauskam, of New Zealand, and Miss Margaret Morgan, of Britain, were working as nurses for the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) when they were kidnapped by gunmen last week from a village in the province of Pattani.

The OMF and police officials declined to comment on yesterday's claim by the Governor of Pattani, Mr. Charn Pancharat, that the gunmen had demanded 10m baht (£200,000 in ransom) and a halt to Israeli aggression against Palestinians and other Arab nations.

In Singapore the overseas director of the OMF, the Rev. Dennis Lane, said: "To the best of our knowledge the girls are being well treated."

Some police officials in the area believe the two women are being held by a guerrilla leader called Poh Su, once a school teacher, who was reported to have said he became an outlaw to fight corrupt police officials.

Police initially said they thought the guerrillas had taken the women to give medical treatment to some outlaws wounded in clashes with Government troops.—Reuters.

Release of four held over 'Zebra' killings San Francisco, May 3.—Four of the seven young blacks arrested here in connexion with the "Zebra Murders", have been released for lack of evidence, police announced today.

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Briton in drug case appeal

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London, May 3.—The British Government has agreed to supply arms to the Middle East settlement and the attitudes of individual Middle East Governments to it, as well as the probable effects of an opening of the Suez Canal to shipping to be discussed together with Britain's future role in the Middle East. Since the British embargo upon arms supplies to some Middle East countries was lifted on January 21, military aid is certain also to be considered.

Several of the ambassadors will wish to hear also whether the current British review of overseas defence commitments is likely to lead to new arrangements in the British sovereign bases in Cyprus and to any changes in the military facilities in Oman.

The conference may help also to establish that British policy in the Middle East is as even handed as possible between the Arabs and Israel. There has recently been some stiff Arab criticism of the sympathy of a number of British Socialists for Israel.

Queen of Jordan has baby daughter Amman, May 3.—Queen Alia of Jordan today gave birth to a baby daughter, the royal court announced. Mother and child are in good health. King Hussein has five children from two previous marriages.—UPI.

519 killed in S Vietnam battle for Ranger base From Victoria Brittain Saigon, May 3 The month-long siege of the Duc Hue Ranger base, 35 miles northwest of Saigon, was lifted last night. A military resupply convoy got through to the base and withdrew safely under cover of darkness, the military command announced today.

Both sides threw at least two regiments into the fight for the isolated base. Government casualties in the past five days of heavy fighting were 33 killed and 89 wounded. The communists lost 486 killed and 12 captured, according to the command.

Colonel Le Trung Hien, the military spokesman, again denied that South Vietnamese troops had entered Cambodia during Government operations this week, either in the Duc Hue area or in the southern part of the Parrot's beak where the Government is attempting to recapture the border post of Long Khot.

In an engagement early yesterday on the border near Long Khot updated casualty figures show that both sides had even heavier losses than previously announced. The Government lost 12 killed, 43 wounded and one missing. The communists lost 134 killed, and five taken prisoner, after what witnesses said had been a hard-fought battle.

Shelling and minor engagements continued all day yesterday round three more Government militia posts near the town

of Tuyen Binh, on the Cambodian border near the lost base. Casualties were light.

In Saigon, General Phan Hoa Hiep gave a warning that the future of the Joint Military Commission, the only remaining negotiation, between the two South Vietnamese sides, was in danger after the communist Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation had walked out of today's meeting. It was their third walk-out in two weeks.

General Hiep confirmed that the Government had hardened its negotiating line in the JMC and that all the 11 agreed privileges and immunities for the communist delegation had been revised by the Government side.

He said that the cutting of the delegation's telephone lines and the isolation of the delegation from the press and diplomats was deliberate and permanent. He added that a recent letter from the International Commission of Control and Supervision asking for discussion of the points and the PRG's position was illegal.

The question of the delegation's liaison flights between Saigon and Loc Ninh would be taken up between the two sides, but depended on new security guarantees by the communists. The general went on. Previously the general had said that the cutting of the two liaison flights was in punishment for the mortar incident which killed and wounded 83 children in Cai Lay, as well as for the loss of the Tong Le Chan Ranger base.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: كذا كذا كذا

Honours broker extraordinary

Tom Cullen on the rise and fall of J Maundy Gregory

J. Maundy Gregory is in that direct line of English (or men) descending from the promoters of the South Sea Bubble to today's pyramid salesmen by way of Arthur Orton, the Wapping butcher, Richard Baines, and Horatio Buxton, who got only looked like John Bull but founded a periodical of that name. Maundy Gregory was not the first Englishman to sell royal honours, but he was by far the most successful—dispensing more knight-hoods and baronetcies than any other, and over a longer period of time. Some might argue that he was not a confidence-trickster in the accepted meaning of the term since he usually delivered the goods for which he had been paid, but towards the end when his financial situation had become desperate he resorted to outright swindles by taking money for honours he knew he could not deliver. The Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act of 1925 may not have been passed by Parliament expressly for his benefit, but in the half century since its passage no one but Gregory has been brought to trial under its provisions.

Gregory, whose career was like "an incandescent meteor" in the words of his friend A. J. A. Symons, could not have operated for long without the friendship and protection of powerful men. Among his clients were the Balkan royalties, peers, generals, admirals, and senior civil servants. One good friend was Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, to whom Gregory presented a silt-trap trophy to be competed for annually at the police horse show at Imber Court. Lord Birkenhead, the former Lord Chancellor, nicknamed Gregory "the Cheerful Giver", as a tribute to the sale of his "red-headed, middle-aged former actress with whom he shared a flat in St John's Wood. In 1933 Gregory became a suspect in the strange death of Mrs. Rose, whose will, scribbled by Gregory on the back of a hotel menu, left him her entire estate valued at £18,000, and this at a time when he was desperately in need of money. Although Mrs. Rose's remains were exhumed seven months after burial and subjected to exhaustive forensic tests, no trace of poison could be found. Meanwhile Gregory, for whom a subpoena had been issued to appear at the coroner's inquest, hid out in a Paris hotel, where he had registered as "Peter Michael".

Arthur John Peter Michael Maundy Gregory claimed that he had the blood of eight English kings flowing through his veins, and to prove it he would produce a four-foot scroll compiled for him by the College of Heralds and signed by the Garter King of Arms. According to this remarkable document Gregory could number among his forebears John of Gaunt, Harry Percy and the Black Prince. But it is intriguing to Gregory's biography that the blood came from his mother's side of the family, the Maynaws, who were Lords of the Manor of Bray in Cornwall. Why he should have been ashamed of his father, the Reverend Francis Gregory, who came from a long and distinguished line of clergymen, is difficult to fathom, but Gregory's antagonism towards his father cut deeper than any question of genealogy.

the poorest living in this seaport town. Though he is remembered today as a sinner, the Reverend Francis Gregory's efforts to introduce High Anglican ritual in what had been a predominantly evangelical parish were not well received: he was even insulted in the streets and threatened with physical violence. Some of this rubbed off on the youthful Maundy, who was taunted by his schoolmates as "Pope-lower". His father had his heart set on Maundy taking Holy Orders, and he was sent to Oxford with this object in view. But Mr. Gregory's death in March, 1899, relieved Maundy of this, to him, distasteful prospect, and on coming down from Oxford he plunged into a theatrical career. In the next five years he appeared as an actor under no fewer than 18 managements. Either Gregory was restless and changing jobs, or he was being fired with extraordinary frequency.

Gregory's early life was in fact a series of failures. In 1906, Gregory, having switched from acting to management, was dismissed as manager of Frank Benson's northern Shakespearean company after being caught with his hand in the till. Three years later Gregory's efforts to crash London's West End as an impresario with a revival of the light opera *Dorothy* at the Waldorf Theatre ended in disaster when the musicians, who had not been paid, went on strike following a Saturday matinee. Instead of urging the musicians to wait until the evening's box office receipts were in Gregory lost his head. Like the madman in *The Phantom of the Opera*, he rushed to the basement of the Waldorf Theatre and pulled the mains switch to plunge the auditorium into darkness. He then gave it out that there had been an "electrical failure".

So far, there had been nothing in Gregory's career to suggest that he would ever play a role in politics. But in 1910 Gregory surfaced—as editor of *Mayfair* and *Town Topics*, *The Society Journal*, complete with an idea which was beautiful in its simplicity. Gregory reasoned that Edwardian society included a large number of newly rich who would pay handsomely to have their portraits sandwiched between gossip paragraphs about duchesses. Gregory's hunch proved correct, and soon he was receiving orders to queue up to have their portraits done for *Mayfair* ("Town Topics" was soon dropped from the smashhead) by artists with such fanciful names as "Pip", "Ed", and "Olip" (a portrait by the indomitable Leslie Ward, who signed his work "Soy", cost extra). Gregory quickly changed the heading of the *Mayfair* feature from "Men of the Day" to "Men of the Twentieth Century", and began running them off in batches of four and five in each issue. Many who paid for these puff pieces were later to become his clients.

Gregory was not slow to draw the moral that those who were willing to pay for mere propinquity to the titled would be willing to pay much more to be possessor of the title itself. By 1914 he was ready to set up in business as an honours broker, but this was interrupted.

Nothing much is known about Maundy Gregory's wartime activities except that he was employed by M.I.5. (In the "confidential" memo which he gave to clients Gregory claimed that in his M.I.5 capacity he "employed" some 1,000 agents; but as no more than 350 personnel were employed in counter-intelligence, even at the height of the war, this may be taken as a typical Gregorian exaggeration). With the Armistice Gregory emerged full-blown on the political scene, operating under the cover of editor-publisher of the monthly *Whitehall Gazette* and *St James's Review*, which looked official; but was, in fact, bogus.

It was said that if Maundy Gregory had not existed Lloyd George would have had to invent him. Pledged to make Britain "a land fit for heroes", Lloyd George's wartime Coalition government was swept back into office by a landslide

vote at the so-called "Coupon" election of December 14, 1918. It was hailed as Lloyd George's greatest triumph; in reality it was his worst defeat. Of the 484 Coalitionists elected to Parliament 136 were of the Welsh Premier's own Coalition Liberal persuasion, the balance Conservatives. Thus, having broken with the official Liberal party, Lloyd George found himself a prisoner of the Tories. None better than the Welsh Wizard realized that if he were to survive politically he must found his own party and raise funds to fight the next election. How better to raise such a party fund than through the sale of honours?

Selling honours, Lloyd George told J. C. Davidson, chairman of the Conservative Party, 1926-30, was "a far cleaner method of filling the Party chest than the methods used in the United States", a comparison which makes a teasing reading of half century later in light of Watergate and its sister scandals. "In America," Lloyd George went on, "the steel trusts support one political party, and the cotton people support another. Here a man gives £40,000 to the Party and gets a baronetcy. If he comes to the leader of the Party and says I subscribe £20,000 to Party funds, you must do this or that, we can tell him to go to the devil." "The worst of it," the premier opined, "is that you cannot defend it in public. . . . And because he could not publicly defend the honours auction Lloyd George was careful to remain ignorant of its more squalid details, so that if the need arose he could wrap himself in a white sheet and swear that he was innocent.

The £2m secret fund that resulted almost entirely through the sale of honours, was described by A. G. Gardiner, editor of the *Liberal Daily News*, as "an *imperium in imperio*, as sinister and disruptive in its possibilities as it is unprecedented. The Coalition Liberal Chief Whip, Captain Freddy Guest, a cousin of Winston Churchill, was the fund's architect; and he in turn employed Maundy Gregory much as "a sportsman employs a retriever to bring the game into the bag", in the words of Sir Colin Coote, one-time Coalition Liberal MP for the Isle of Ely, later managing editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. Head gamekeeper might be a more apt comparison. Unfortunately, Freddy Guest was none too particular what sort of game it was, with the result that Gregory, who was given the widest latitude in his wheeling and dealing, bagged some very strange birds indeed.

In the early Twenties Gregory's clients were the hard-faced men whom Baldwin said looked as though they had done well out of the war. It was not necessary to tout for custom. The clients beat a path to the door of Gregory's offices at 38 Parliament Street, where the man who had failed as an actor gave a magnificent performance. Maundy Gregory had filled out considerably since his hectic years in the theatre; the hairline had receded, the pug nose acquired a rubicund hue. In later years Gregory used an Elizabeth Arden preparation called "Shine Off" to keep it toned down). A rather disolute-looking cardinal, one might have said of the honours broker as he sat at his desk in a high-backed scarlet leather chair. Gregory was always beautifully dressed with a black pearl tiepin, or jewelled cuff-links to add a touch of elegance. Gregory used to pin the galley proofs containing the *Whitehall Gazette's* table of contents to a visitor's card whenever a visitor gathered, and he would unroll this scroll and pretend to be correcting it with a fountain pen which had a 22-carat chiselpoint nib. The scroll was as bogus as many of the other furnishings of Gregory's office—the signed portraits of royalty in silver frames, the gold cigarette box with the arms of King George II of Greece picked out in diamonds on its lid, the indication of a land fit for heroes. Robert Rhodes James: *Memoirs of Conservative: J. C. Davidson's Memoirs and Papers*, 1910-37.

than 49 honours were earmarked by Lloyd George for proprietors, principal shareholders, editors, and managing directors of newspapers. Thus were "whole groups of newspapers . . . deprived of any real independence," according to the Duke of Northumberland, who was active in exposing the honours racket. As for Lloyd George's beloved Wales, Cardiff had so many honours showered on it that it became known as "the city of dreadful knights." The most damning verdict came from *The Banker*, a financial journal not given ordinarily to driving the money-changers from the temple. After describing Lloyd George's honours recommendations as being "blatant unto notoriety," *The Banker* had this to say: "Many are gross illiterate profiteers, created baronets and knights, merely upon the strength of the money they had obtained in preying upon England in the most awful crisis of her history."

The big honours auction ended with Lloyd George's fall from power, but its epitaph was not written until August, 1925 when the Honours (Prevention

of Abuses) Act became law. This made the sale of honours a criminal offence punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, or a fine not exceeding £500, or both. Gregory was to continue to sell honours, but on a greatly diminished scale. More often than not he took money for honours he could not deliver, feeling safe in the knowledge that those whom he had defrauded were not likely to sue (the new law made both buyer and seller guilty). The new law also forced Gregory to diversify his interests.

Among Gregory's new acquisitions was the Ambassador Club at 27 Conduit Street (now the home of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours) where the Prince of Wales was a frequent guest. The Ambassador Club served as a showcase where Gregory could entertain prospective clients in style, while being seen by these to be hobnobbing with celebrities on terms of intimacy. It also served as a listening post where Gregory could pick up snippets of information of use to him as a political fixer. Most of those who feasted with the panther at the Ambassador Club were like tethered goats; but even the sleep among them must have

realized that by being seen dining with Gregory they were putting their reputations at risk. Agreeing with Henry of Navarre that Paris was indeed worth a Mass, Gregory underwent a conversion to Catholicism in the early thirties, and thereafter did a brisk business in Papal honours, notably those of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, of which he became Grand Cross.

But it was a question of too little, too late. By the early thirties the war of attrition begun by Stanley Baldwin against Gregory was making itself felt (the Conservative Central Office went so far as to plant a spy in Gregory's camp to make sure that none of the names the latter put forward as candidates for honours ever appeared on an Honours List). Finding himself in desperate financial straits, Gregory made the mistake of offering a knight-hood for £10,000 to a retired naval commander whose probity was such that the honours broker in palmer days would never dared to have approach him. It was *The Phantom of the Opera* all over again, with Gregory

losing his head and throwing the mains switch. The commander complained, Gregory was summoned for contravening the 1925 Act, pleaded guilty, and on February 21, 1933, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment plus a £50 fine. The day he was released from Wormwood Scrubs he left England never to return. For the eight remaining years of his life he lived in France as a remittance man, a regular stipend being paid to him by a group of former clients who had clubbed together to buy his silence. Caught in France at the outbreak of the last war, Gregory was taken prisoner by the Germans, died of a "cardiac insufficiency" (the withdrawal of whiskey from his diet killed him according to a close friend) in a German military hospital in Paris on September 23, 1941. All that was found on him were some letters, a rosary, and an ocarina, this man who "loved visible things with something between the zest of the parvenu and the joy of the artist", in the words of A. J. A. Symons.

Tom Cullen's Maundy Gregory: *Purveyor of Honours will be published by the Bodley Head on Thursday, at £3.*

Arthur John Peter Michael Maundy Gregory



Tom Cullen's Maundy Gregory: *Purveyor of Honours will be published by the Bodley Head on Thursday, at £3.*

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SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUN. 5 MAY 7.30 p.m.
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SUN. 5 MAY 7.30 p.m.
NEW PHILHARMONIA
SUN. 5 MAY 7.30 p.m.

TUE. 7 MAY 8 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC
TUE. 7 MAY 8 p.m.

WED. 8 MAY 8 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY
WED. 8 MAY 8 p.m.

THU. 9 MAY 8 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC
THU. 9 MAY 8 p.m.

SUN. 12 MAY 3.30 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC
SUN. 12 MAY 3.30 p.m.

MON. 13 MAY 8 p.m.
FOREST PHILHARMONIC
MON. 13 MAY 8 p.m.

TUE. 14 MAY 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY
TUE. 14 MAY 8 p.m.

WED. 15 MAY 8 p.m.
ZAGREB PHILHARMONIC
WED. 15 MAY 8 p.m.

THU. 16 MAY 8 p.m.
NEW PHILHARMONIA
THU. 16 MAY 8 p.m.

FRI. 17 MAY 8 p.m.
LONDON JUNIOR AND SENIOR ORCHESTRAS
FRI. 17 MAY 8 p.m.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
TUESDAY 4.30 p.m.
SUNSHINE AND FESTIVAL OF ARTS OF D.M.A.

WEDNESDAY 7.30 p.m.
LONDON JUNIOR AND SENIOR ORCHESTRAS
WEDNESDAY 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY 7.30 p.m.
LONDON JUNIOR AND SENIOR ORCHESTRAS
THURSDAY 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY 7.30 p.m.
LONDON JUNIOR AND SENIOR ORCHESTRAS
FRIDAY 7.30 p.m.

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Leonora Overture No. 3
Symphony No. 5 in C minor

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BACH: ST MATTHEW PASSION

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OVERTURE "1812"
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SUNDAY, 2 JUNE at 7.30
ROSSINI
POLVETSIAN DANCES from 'Prince Igor'
BORODIN
Piano Concerto in A minor
GRIEG
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ADRIANA LECOUVREUR
MONTSERRAT CABALLE
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György Ligeti
Handel and Rossini

WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY at 7.45 p.m.
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MOZART'S 'Turkish' Violin Concerto in A K219
JOHN CASKENS' Japanese 'Kagura'

SUNDAY, 19 MAY at 3 p.m.
BÁLINT VÁZSONYI piano
PURCELL ROOM

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
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ANTOINETTE NORMAN mezzo
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The listener at Speaker's corner

Heathcote Williams styles himself a parasitic. He believes that some people never left the Garden of Eden and that we all have guardian angels unless we trade them for angels of death. He paints slozans on the walls in his street proclaiming the new Albion Free State and the day I saw him he had been hacking at the pavement with a pick-axe, wanting to plant a hedge.

Few other playwrights at the moment enjoy such a great reputation based on such a small corpus of work. His only plays are the one-acter The Local Stigmatic (1965) and AC DC (1970). But his 1964 book The Speakers has now been adapted as a play by William Gaskill and Max Stafford-Clark, who co-direct it at the ICA. It concerns the Sunday speakers at Hyde Park Corner.

Heathcote Williams started going to Speaker's Corner when he was 12. "It was the first Open University. It's the other House of Parliament. Not that I believe in government. The only government is your body, and the only state is the state of your mind, but at Hyde Park there were many minds at work, making themselves manifest. The first speaker I heard was a man called Mr Pearson, a kind of gutter Bertrand Russell, who spoke on atheism and the conspiracy of the Catholic Church against the whole world with unnecessary babies. Every mind at work there was a revelation. People kneeling and praying because they felt like it. People standing with their heads all covered with all kinds of junk that they'd collected over 20 years. I just enrolled the first day. They just transcended teachers. Teachers became nebbishes from cobweb corners. They were just paid hacks, whereas these people were making you a gift of themselves.

I used to take collections in Van Dyck's taxidermy shop, but secretly, because it was forbidden. And carting platforms around. Then, when I was about 16, I got to know Bill MacGuinness, who was England's first hippie. He was a licence to people to be as fulfilled as their highest instincts. He was the first person to use the word 'high' in my hearing, and it meant 'happy'. He was a celebrant. We were walking in Peter Street towards the Salvation Army hostel about four in the morning, smoking a joint, about a foot long, and a squad car came, and the man said, 'What are you smoking?' Billy said 'Marijuana, the weed of the sycophants'. They didn't seem to connect. It was so outrageous they didn't do anything.

"Billy's basic philosophy was: ignore alien orders. No man shall work. Remember to keep holy the seven days. Do nothing slowly. Align yourself with the divine. Nobody's got anything on you. He was destroyed. He was a casualty in the end, because he had an enormous amount of people who were intensely curious and patronizing and so on, but no real allies. He was a loner in the end. A sort of Lenny Bruce. He tried to re-create or create that feeling of alliance with the kind of people I enjoyed to be with. I used to find places to live, get him out of jail, madhouses, things like that. There's a strange thing about writing about people. There's a marriage which you feel that the other person has to accept between you and the typewriter, but there's absolutely no reason why they should accept it. It's nothing to do with their life at all, and it's not what you're doing. You're just doing it because you can have a full and proper relationship. He read what I wrote and he dug it, I think. He came over from Ireland when he was very young. He was known as the boy speaker. All the great men are dead or in the mawhouse, Oscar Wilde's dead. Omar Khayyam is dead. I'm not feeling too well myself."

He thought madness was the highest form of intelligence. "To be a seer or to be a prophet Indian there is no such word as madness. Madness only means that the gods have taken the person's mind. And a man or woman must have a great mind when the gods have need of it, for the gods have everything. If you're a prophet, you're talking to yourself, they'll certify you. But you can go round London all day talking to your wife and she's not listening, and you're normal."

The experience of knowing MacGuinness and becoming involved with the other speakers who were involved with the style of Heathcote Williams's plays and what he says in them, but he's not interested in problems of form. "It just comes up in neon in the front of my forehead and



Heathcote Williams listens to an ICA orator.

I write it down." And he explains AC/DC by saying "I happened to be a radio set in a certain circuit. That's all that happened really." Altogether he's ambivalent about the theatre. "For a long time I didn't go to theatre at all, because it wasn't about the kind of people I enjoyed to be with. Until I saw The Caretaker. There were people in that... I dug their company. The Room was the first thing I saw of Pinter's. He's the King, really. I read The Caretaker lots of times. I don't think I actually saw it for years. I think the real theatre's in the street, and real theatre is to discover the mystic waves of creativity—other waves, theatre waves, whatever it is. The strange mixture of it. To ionise the air with it. I wouldn't ask anybody to perform anything of mine more than once. They're welcome to do it if they want to, but I wouldn't do it. Acting is projecting energy. The real thing is a conversation." But there isn't much real conversation. "Most people are insane—they jabber. They cause other people brain damage by not putting their souls into the words, not giving people their true chemistry. They just put ground-up aspirins into their words. Madness is badness. Otherwise good language is like having your aura repressed."

Ronald Hayman

Tea and tensions

Next of Kin National

Irving Wardle
Domestic suburbia is hardly an unexplored dramatic territory, but its playwrights do tend to follow the same route. No matter what the subject, lust and hatreds festering behind those semi-detached frontages, the stage reduces them all to a comic spectrum ranging from John Mortimer's wry sympathy to Ciles Cooper's icy satire. John Hopkins is a genuine outsider in the sense that he takes these passions straight and even intensifies them.

In This Story of Yours and Find Your Way Home he had the pretext of violent and perverse events. In Next of Kin, no less emotionally charged than his other plays, he shows his hand more openly by choosing a humdrum situation containing only one event. The Lloyd family meets for Sunday tea at the home of Susan and Brian; during the afternoon Brian walks out; the other two couples and their mother hang about until the evening waiting for him to return, and then leave Susan alone. And that is all. Around this thread, Mr Hopkins has woven an elaborate pattern of the family and its tensions.

There is the question of what to do about mother, who really ought not to be living alone in that big house any longer. There is the question of Brian's desolate job as a car salesman. There is the delicate matter of James's new house, which will upset mother as the family has always lived in the same district. Other undercurrents appear. Two of the husbands betray a suspicious fondness for their in-laws' wives; and two of the wives are dutifully attached to other members of the family.

Although for the first half-hour one has frequently to consult the programme's family tree to work out the blood relationships, by the end of the evening the people are thoroughly, but not excessively, familiar. The members of Harold Pinter's cast have certainly created fully rounded characters.

You get a good impression of the mother's obsession from the first sight of Viola Keats's stony features. Antonia Pemberton, as Kathleen, the eldest, sardoniously and contemptuously tries to dominate the party through household tasks ("I'm trying to finish the washing up. It's no trouble with a little help"). Then there is Benjamin Whitrow, comfortably richer than the others, and taking refuge from little jobs behind his TV Times.

Earning their money in teaching, building and the property market ("I don't really sell houses. I find people houses that they might want to buy"), they remain on display until June 30.

The anniversary exhibition is concentrating on explaining the problems faced in making and maintaining such a display. It will afford the public an opportunity to see something of the scenes and operations in such areas as conservation, environmental control, photography, cataloguing, scholarship and publications, and the associated problems of hanging, framing and presentation of the pictures.

'The Working of the National Gallery'
On Friday, May 10, the National Gallery will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its foundation by the opening of an exhibition, The Working of the National Gallery. This will be open free to the public in Room XIII from 10 am to 6 pm on weekdays, 2 pm to 6 pm on Sundays, and during June, until 9 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It will

A let-down send-up

Really Raquel BBC 2

Alan Coren
There was a moment last night—you know how transcendental visions burst upon you sometimes, when the scales are momentarily lifted, when you see with a clarity to which a mere mortal seems hardly entitled—when I found myself in the presence of an ineluctable Thought. Man, cried the Thought, has come a long way to this: up from the swamp, down from the tree, fire, the wheel, war, plague, literacy, internal combustion, the moon, to wash up at last on this bank and shoal of time, to find me watching Raquel Welch dancing with a stuffed dyonosaur.

Has it, you ask, all been worthwhile? Well, it has to be said; it was a good stuffed dyonosaur, but not a great stuffed dyonosaur. Personally, I preferred it to the cardboard amoeba which, in the ensuing tepidshorean masterpiece, she her, but then, microbiology never was my long suit.

Exactly why the professionals who pieced this abominable mosaic together should have enjoined Miss Welch to spend so much time performing with God's less fortunate experiments escapes me. As the same crowd got her singing along with a bunch of piper macho ghosts, entitled The Kraft Paper Company, I can only guess that they thought the contrast might throw Miss Welch's undeniable assets into even more startling relief, but I am afraid the effect on me was the opposite. Beauty joined the beasts; she became just another freak in the sideshow. Although it must be admitted that when she sang a Salvation Army number in a lured truss and a top hat, a warm glow not unlike respect swept through my entire being. Men have won VCs for less.

Why do we suppose that Miss Welch, whose matchless embonpoint holds half the world in thrall, let herself in for this. No one, after all, hungers for derision. I think the clue came in the prolegomenon, which was a sort of apologia pro vita sua not unlike the sort of stuff that has been afflicting the cameras at the White House. Nobody, Miss Welch said, understood the real her. No, the real her inside. And to demonstrate emancipation from her image she sent it up badly. If only she had sent it up well, she might have had the last laugh.

That is not to say that I did. There is nothing funny about great legs taking a wrong turning, I promise you.

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition Burlington House

William Gaunt
Even more than in recent years the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition is something of everything. The 1,373 works shown run the gamut of most of the styles, materials and techniques in present use. Equally varied are the intentions and attitudes they display. From a mild induction of pictures in oils of the traditionally academic kind the visitor passes to the central gallery where large abstractions are a main feature and thence to a selection of works of "super-realistic" or surrealist aim.

It has been the avowed purpose to underline these varied and distinctive aspects as emphatically as possible. Statistically this may be considered a successful policy. The Academy's own account of progress notes the 10,000 works submitted, the largest array of recent times, as a sign of artists' recognition that the Academy offers an opportunity of reaching the widest possible audience. There were 75,000 visitors in 1973, an increase, it is noted, of 80 per cent on the number in 1970. More than £120,000 worth of work was sold. The Academy's glowing statement asserts that the exhibition is "by far the best attended and most successful open exhibition regularly held in this country". Whether the result is very inspiring is another matter. What statistics leave out of account is the quality of art, and the large miscellany now presented viewed as a whole is aesthetically unintelligible. There are works by members that often give the sensation of marking time. There are many others that convey only a crude idea of forward movements imperfectly digested. There are juxtapositions of the figurative and non-figurative that leave a sense of discomfort at the distance between them. The permissive-ness of the Hanging Committee raises the question once more of what the Academy nowadays stands for.

The answer can only be that it is a large picture market, without particular direction. There are some nice small paintings, though individual preferences can be left to the visitor without critical interference. A more coherent section than most is that of the prints, in which a distinct liveliness is to be found. The exhibition is open until July 28.

Hamburg State Opera's new productions
Götz Friedrich is the producer of two of the new productions at the Hamburg State Opera during the 1974-75 season. The first night of his staging of Le Nozze di Figaro (conductor Gary Bertini) is on December 8; this will be followed by Massenet's Don Quichotte (conductor Klaus Tennstedt), first night January 25.

The first of the season's new productions will be Khusan-china (conductor Horst Stein), which will be staged by the Salome team of August Everding and Andreas Maljewa, first night September 28. Other new productions include La Cenerentola and La Traviata. John Neumeier is the choreographer of The Nutcracker (first night October 27) and Gerald Hummel's Otello and Desdemona (premiere June 14). Sets and costumes for both these ballets will be by Jürgen Rose.

Handwritten note: "Kiss me in the mouth"

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Gardening

Better safe than sorry

Many of my friends are experimenting with the technique of growing tomatoes, cucumbers and other plants in the plastic Gro-bags I described several weeks ago.

Because the peat compost in the bag is dark coloured, it is easy to be lulled into thinking it does not need water.

Several years ago I called attention to the desirability of wearing gloves when putting bone meal or roof on the garden because of the possible danger of infection by anthrax.

My elder daughter used to help by weeding our rock garden, and each time her hands and arms were affected by itchy blisters.

White (Beljasky) to play. Cleverly winning a pawn but stupidly imperilling the whole game.

Chess board diagram showing a game position with White to move.

from her overseas "wing" we will warn her to keep well away from them.

There are many things rather topsy turvy this spring. In a normal season my Siberian wallflowers in the front garden grow tall enough to hide the foliage of my hybrid darwin tulips.

It is not generally known that bonemeal is very commonly infected by salmonella, which causes quite severe tummy upsets.

It so happened that at the time this unfortunate incident occurred, a protest was registered thousands of miles away in Las Vegas where a player of integrity was accused of having bid on the strength of his partner's hesitant double.

West led a heart ruffed by declarer who with the drop of the 4J and the 4S made his Contract. The opponents protested the score because "North had studied for nearly a minute before doubling Five Hearts".

Bridge hand diagram showing a deal with West to bid.

Large advertisement for Hayter lawnmowers, featuring a woman with a lawnmower and the text "You want a Hayter".

ENTERTAINMENTS

Large advertisement for ENTERTAINMENTS, listing various theatres, galleries, and exhibitions.

George Hutchinson

The other Cup Final is almost a religious rite

Sportsview

Scotland is undoubtedly a foreign country when it comes to football. While most of the nation is aware that the FA Cup Final is being played this afternoon in London, the Scottish Cup Final, the most glamorous occasion of the Scottish sporting calendar, has received little attention. Perhaps this is because the match is being played in the hiatus between Glasgow Celtic's European Cup night-mare, and Scotland's World Cup dream at Munich. Just 10 days after their defeat in Madrid, after two matches of unparalleled ferocity both on and off the field, Celtic today meet Dundee United at Hampden Park in a match that may well be described as the "forgotten" Cup Final.

There is no better illustration of the vibrant contrasts typical of Scottish football than the meeting of these two clubs, the lairds and the velleins, from two of Scotland's largest cities. Dundee United have never won a major trophy, and do not seriously expect to win one. They are slightly surprised to find themselves in the final of Scotland's premier competition, since the other Tayside club, Dundee, have attracted most of the headlines, and even managed to beat the mighty Celtic in the final of the Scottish League Cup last November. They forswore their Catholic identification 51 years ago when they changed their green-and-white shirts for the last time, and changed their name from Dundee Hibernian. Without it, their average crowd is some 5,000 (comparable with that of the Verdier in the English third division, but by no means the lowest in the Scottish first division), and they have lost money in 10 of the last 14 years. They are kept alive by a massive lottery called "Ayrpool", which has produced £370,000 over the past decade. It is only through fund-raising of this sort, and the sale of the odd talented youngster that the club can exist at all.

Nevertheless they will join Celtic next September in the

annual Scottish invasion of the Continent, regardless of whether they win today or not. Even if they are beaten they will qualify for the European Cup Winners' Cup instead of Celtic, who are already assured of a place in the senior competition, the European Cup, having won the Scottish League.

Celtic are a club whose reputation is feared and respected all over Europe. They won the

European Cup in 1967, the first British club to do so. Everywhere they play they are attended by the green-bedecked faithful, whose devotion to the cult of the club is fanatical. This devotion is given the force of a religious sanction because it

assumes a fierce hatred of the Protestant Rangers across the city; paradoxically, religious antagonism that has died in every other mainland British city, has been prolonged since due to the rivalry of the football clubs.

It is not just the religious aspect that distinguishes the Scottish from the English game. The Scottish footballer regards his profession as a craft, not as outdoor show-business; it is an occupation with a dignity and nobility that has long ago lost in England, eroded by commercial exploitation and press hysteria. The Dundee United players would no more think of

daring Miss World than of walking across the Tait; they do not own bouzoukis, or fashionable nightclubs, nor do they model underwear in magazines. Even Jim Baxter, the most extravagantly talented Scot of the 50s, only wishes to live at peace with his pen in the Paisley Road. All this has meant that Scottish football is experiencing an economic decline that it would take more than an improbable win for the national team in the World Cup Finals to halt. A long-overdue reorganization of the Scottish League will be effected the season after next, but this will inevitably entail a contraction in the number of clubs able to afford a full-time playing staff.

Success in Scottish football, then, does not carry the same repercussions as it does elsewhere, and success is generally the by-product of the two big Glasgow clubs, Rangers and Celtic, who are in the best interests of the Scottish League to allow competition to wicker away completely. Their melodramatic European ventures would not be possible without complete domestic opposition on which to sharpen their skills. And Celtic have never established the same stranglehold on the Cup as they have in the League, although they tend to lose only a handful of games in a season, they have lost the Scottish Cup Final three times in their last eight appearances. What Dundee have to fear is the League, which has made their manager, Jim MacLean, said: "If the Cup Final was a handicap like in horseracing, then my team would start with a two-goal lead." Then Celtic, asserting their superiority early on with a couple of soft goals. The rest will be their practice for the faithful.

Alan Stewart



Two for the big occasion: Harry Hood (left) and Jimmy Johnstone who are in Celtic's squad for today's Scottish Cup final.



A worrying outbreak of the galloping statement

It may be the result of Mr Edward Short's embarrassments, or there may be other causes, but whatever the reasons, many Tories have seemed more cheerful in recent days. If they are not quite their old selves as yet, they are certainly in better spirits. The gloom of the weeks since the election is lifting, and a sense of optimism can again be heard in quarters lately sunk in despair.

Of course, the passage of time has something to do with it. As a party, the Tories have proved resilient in the past, with a healthy capacity for recovery after the shock of their reckless and avoidable collision with the electorate on February 28, and the stunned condition in which many have been living ever since; they now appear to be regaining something of their political vitality.

But they will have to take care, and not overdo things. Mr Peter Walker, for one, may still be in need of a steady diet of his friends' unpeppery advice, and not without reason after a rather disturbing incident this week.

Shock that prompted fevered statement

On reading last Sunday that Labour intends to nationalize the advertising and public relations industries, Mr Walker's temperature rose alarmingly. I am told. So much so that he reverted to an old addiction which he was thought to have overcome; calling for special papers, and once issued a fevered statement, declaring that the nation would be staggered by this revelation.

The shock to Mr Walker's system, you see, has been so severe that he had forgotten all about Labour's election pledges. They had gone right out of his head, as if he had never read them (expressed with such precision) in Mr Wilson's manifesto.

You have to take these things seriously, and some of Mr Walker's friends are wondering if he is up and about again, even though he is still quite a young man. One can understand their worry.

His compulsion to issue instant statements can probably be controlled or suppressed again, though this may take time and will undoubtedly demand what Mr Heath might call his full-hearted cooperation. Through the withdrawal symptoms were painful, I believe, he responded pretty well to previous treatment, with beneficial effects lasting for several years.

If Mr Walker really tries, he can perhaps put the affliction behind him for good. It is a wretched disability for anyone in public life, and he has my sympathy.

Speaking of Mr Walker reminds me of PEST, the Progressive Tory Pressure Group (founded 1963 by Michael Spicer, now an MP) is

still called Mr Walker's Patron, and his members include a great array of Conservative notabilities and ministers, among them Robert Carr, Maurice Macmillan, Sir Gilmore, Lord Windham, Patrick Jenkin, Mark Carling, Paul Channon, Nicholas Scott, Lord Stowell, William Whitelaw, Scrabbleman, and Norman John Stevas.

PEST has just gained a number of interesting recruits from the new intake of Conservative MPs—for example Douglas Hurd and John MacGregor, former heads of Mr Heath's private office, and the young barrister and MP, Sir Keith Raffan, who opposed Mr Sam Silkin, now Attorney General, at Dulwich in the general election. After four years, Mr Raffan has decided to give up the chairmanship and return to his native Scotland, where he is looking for a seat. His successor is likely to be Mr William Shearman.

Meanwhile PEST is doing a very sensible thing, not for the first time. Under the chairmanship of Mr David Clarke, a former Conservative minister, charged with constructing what Keith Raffan describes as "a philosophical framework for our policies", which in the past have perhaps lacked cohesion, in that each has been self-contained and not always closely related to an underlying, consistent and unifying outlook. There has been too much ad hocery, one might say.

This is, of course, a complaint that can be made against the late Government, as PEST well knows. Under the guidance of Mr Clarke, who in Lord Butler's words "combined intellectual distinction with a tough integrity and strength of character" when he was responsible for Conservative Party research long years ago, PEST is likely to provide what it has set out to establish: a rational philosophy.

The Shadow Cabinet, which met yesterday for a lengthy review of policy, might be advised to take note of what PEST eventually has to say. After all, Mr Heath and his immediate collaborators (in or out of the Shadow Cabinet) are not so well endowed with political education as they are often accused of. Who knows, PEST may be able to supply a philosophy that suits the party as a whole.

By way of postscript, I turn to something else. Boots the chemists is still to the best of my knowledge an English company. It belongs any English company (but especially one that has received the Queen's Award) to uphold the English language and our own spelling. This is not good enough, however, for what I might call the snarling Boots of Nottingham, who are now plastering their tissue boxes with the American "multicolor". If half the nation cannot spell the Boots example will hardly help.

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Memories of a miracle worker

Last week The New Philharmonia Chorus sang the supreme work, Beethoven's *Massa Solemnis*, as their memorial tribute to the supreme choral trainer, Wilhelm Furtwängler, who died yesterday. It will also be a memorial requiem at Brompton Oratory today at 11 am. Pitz was a magician. He could work miracles.

Life goes on and no chorus can maintain its standards without re-conditioning, change. Only a small minority of those on the platform stood there on the night in 1957 when it began, as simply the Philharmonia Chorus, founded by Walter Legge, but Pitz was the trainer, giving the chorus a new home in Aachen for those unforgettable rehearsals, remembered now with smiles and tears.

Legge and a few others knew of his fame as chorus master at Bayreuth, and trainer of the Vienna Singverein and the Vienna State Opera Chorus, but hardly anyone else in England did. Of that first concert, a Beethoven 9th under Klemperer, this newspaper wrote that the finale exceeded in grandeur and brilliance all that the foregoing movements had implied for the Philharmonia Chorus, which now made its debut, can really sing the music of the finale, sing it accurately and in full, particularly tone in very vocal parts, praise the most durable of sagas neatly and meaningfully. . . the results were dazzling."

It takes something to dazzle this country, which is full of cracking good choirs: the London Philharmonia Choir, the more vocalistic 50 Chorus, the Scottish Festival Chorus, the great northern choirs, as the Huddersfield and many other choirs know, you have to go to a Latin country to see what a choir can do. In 1963 (the year I joined the New Philharmonia Chorus) we went to Parma, to the Teatro Regio, notoriously demonstrative either against or for, to do the Verdi Requiem, for the 150th anniversary celebrations. We were terrified. At the end, men were leaning out of boxes trying to throw carnations at the front row of sopranos, the performance was received with the most durable of sagas neatly and meaningfully. . . the results were dazzling."

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Voters' note of caution for Labour

The cycle of a government's popularity follows a regular pattern, confirmed not merely by opinion polls and by-elections, but by municipal elections which affect a much larger cross-section of the electorate. For a few months after a general election victory there is a honeymoon. This was seen in 1945, when Labour did better in the November local elections than in the July general election, and in May 1960, when the Conservatives improved on the Conservative triumph of October, 1959.

By the end of the first year there is a sharp reaction, as the government begins to make enemies and the opposition's morale recovers. Municipal victories by the Conservatives in 1946 and 1967, and by Labour in 1952, 1956 and 1971, all showing swings of around 10 per cent from the previous year's general election underline this. Indeed, as the table shows, the landslide of 1971, 11 months after the formation of the Heath Government, led to his party's greatest-ever local government success.

Seats won in Greater London boroughs, 1964-1971

	1964	1968	1971
Lab	32	39	121
Con	668	1438	597
Lib	13	10	9
Others	66	65	36

This Labour peak has to be borne in mind when evaluating Thursday's gains and losses.

In the general election statement of February 28 the Conservatives had recovered by about 5 per cent in Greater London since the 1971 borough elections and by about 4 per cent since the 1973 GLC election. Table I shows the movement of opinion in 10 marginal constituencies over the past three years. For ease of comparison it is based on Labour and Conservative shares of the votes only.

The honeymoon, it appears, is still on, but it is going through some rough passages. Over London as a whole, the Conservatives have polled slightly better than at the general election, but the variations are significant. In the 12 inner London boroughs Labour has largely held its own. In a number of them—Camden, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Westminster—it has held gains gained for the first time three years ago. But in parliamentary terms there is little pay-off here.

In outer London the picture is more varied. In Hillingdon, Harrow, Bexley and Merton the Conservatives did up to 5 per cent better than in February; in others, notably Barnet and

TABLE I: CONSERVATIVE SHARE OF TWO-PARTY VOTE IN MARGINAL SEATS (in percent)

	(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)		Swing to Con.	
	Borough	EL	GLC	EL	Feb. 74	EL	Feb. 74	(a)	(b)	(c)
Battersea S	43.8	42.0	47.0	48.0	4.2	6.0	1.0	1.0		
Ealing N	44.8	45.1	47.5	48.2	3.4	3.1	0.7			
Hilford S	46.1	46.9	48.2	51.5	5.4	4.6	3.3			
Putney	44.6	42.2	48.3	50.7	6.1	8.5	2.4			
Paddington	41.5	39.0	48.8	43.4	1.9	4.4	-5.4			
Hilford N	44.6	48.8	50.4	51.1	6.5	2.3	0.7			
Brentford & Isleworth	46.6	46.5	50.8	53.8	7.2	7.3	3.0			
Croydon C	46.9	45.6	51.6	58.0	9.1	10.4	4.4			
Action	50.5	52.2	52.1	53.9	3.4	1.7	1.8			
Hendon N	48.0	47.8	54.1	55.0	7.0	7.2	0.5			

TABLE II: PARTY SHARES IN LIBERAL STRONGHOLDS (in percent)

	General Election			Borough Election		
	Con.	Lib.	Lab.	Con.	Lib.	Lab.
Barnet borough	44.7	25.4	29.8	47.4	20.9	32.6
Richmond-on-Thames borough	45.4	30.7	23.4	41.1	31.3	27.5
Sutton & Cheam constituency	45.4	41.9	12.6	47.6	35.9	16.5

There is one further proviso in this calculation. In the past Labour has underperformed by about 5 per cent in local elections when Labour governments have been in power. Should one therefore "top up" these figures to take account of the possibility that this has happened again? Probably not. Past experience relates largely

to occasions when the Government was demonstrably unpopular, and there is no evidence that this Government is yet in that stage of cycle. It is therefore safest to read Thursday's figures at their face value.

Peter Pulzer

The author is tutor in politics, Christ Church, Oxford.

Nation before party is the Conservative promise

Let us now turn for a moment from Mr Heath's dilemma to that of the Labour Party.

Mr Wilson's best chance of winning next time would be to revert to his pragmatism of 1964 and to secure public unawareness of his last manifesto—as indeed he largely succeeded in doing in February. But also, certainly his letting wing will not let him abstain from the full socialist dose, and even if they did, Mr Wilson would find it difficult to explain why what was fundamental to his policy in February was redundant in June or October.

Mr Heath has two good reasons for altering Tory policy: the actions of the minority Labour Government and the rejection by the electorate of its appeal for a mandate. These reasons are not available to Mr Wilson. He can hardly argue that what little his Government has done so far has made socialist policy irrelevant: apart from anything else that would remove the need for an election. Nor, in view of Labour's arrogance in refusing dealings with the other parties and its presence that it won an ordinary victory in February, can Mr Wilson convincingly do the mantle of humility and admit that the voters refused him a mandate for extreme socialism.

Mr Wilson will, therefore, be stuck with the full rigours of his February manifesto and the nationalization of whatever number of companies and industries that take the passing fancy of the party's national executive. Extreme socialism will be the great issue of the next election, of course. Mr Wilson will use all his political skill to blur it, but the necessary sleight of hand is likely on this occasion to be beyond him for at least two reasons.

First, there will be no Tory spectre or policy which he can use to scare the voters and divert them from full and just consideration of the socialist programme. Asked a direct question in February, the electorate wavered (as it did in the only remotely similar election, that of 1923), and did not give a direct answer. There will be

no need for the Tories so to test it again.

Second, Labour has not for many years been a friendly party. Whether the British people admire or dislike Mr Scanlon, Mr Jones and Mr Daly, they do not want to be governed by them; and important though the unions are, they are a part not the whole of the nation. Yet Labour's deference to the leaders of the big unions is blatant and its consequent inconsistencies glaring. The absurdity of price control without wage control is only exceeded by the prospect of full socialist control over every facet of the economy except the unions, where the prescription is the abdication of socialist influence for other people is what the Labour Party now stands for—hardly a position to inspire or unite the country.

Labour's sectionalism has, if anything, been increased by office. Mr Foot's proposed payment of £10m ransom money to the unions is the most important example. Rarely can Britain's diplomatic, defence and economic interests have been so crudely subordinated to the needs of party management and the ideological obsessions of a noisy minority as they have been doing the past few weeks.

Displays of moralistic indignation in foreign affairs are seldom impressive; and when they are directed only against those tyrannies, which excite the hatred of men whose own commitment to western democratic values is often suspect, they merit merely derision. Leaving aside his behaviour in the EEC, Mr Callaghan's moralizing and self-damaging gestures against right-wing dictatorships marry ill with Mr Wilson's recent obsequiousness in Prague.

Mr Healey's Budget clearly exhibited the traditional socialist hostility to industry as well as the traditional socialist embrace of ever rising taxation. With his economics apparently a uniquely unfortunate amalgam of the doctrines of Professor Kaldor and the late Philip Snowden, Mr Healey's outlook and policy are as sectional as are Mr Callaghan's at the Foreign Office.

With all this already so

clearly in public view, the Tories should have little difficulty in demonstrating to the electorate what Labour has in store for it. And they themselves can offer a much more attractive package. Against socialist sectionalism and the manipulation of government for party ends, the Tories stand for a national consensus, the assertion of nation above party both at home and abroad. Except for Europe and an incomes policy, neither of which can be sacrificed to factional squabbles within the Labour Party, Tory policy will be uncontested.

An unequivocal commitment to the Western alliance and the adequate defence of Britain; the continuation of Keith Joseph's Lumaca policies and Geoffrey Howe's manifold safeguards for the consumer; a new policy for housing and mortgages; prosperity based on the reduction of taxation and the realization that British industry needs to be helped not harassed by government; cooperation with but not domination by the unions; a sensible measure of devolution to Scotland and Wales; the extension not the suppression of private property; above all the promise of wise, patient, and moderate administration instead of wanton socialist meddling and turbulence—these surely are policies in tune with dangerous and unpredictable times and with the mood and needs of the electorate.

After all, it is unlikely that those six million Liberal voters, or for that matter many Labour voters, really want to see British industry taxed, taxed and taxed again by Mr Healey, and then "reorganized", "managed" and mostly owned by Mr Wedgwood Benn. Mr Wilson can offer a programme which will appeal only to socialists with a capital "S". The Tories on the other hand can offer a coherent posture and programme, which should appeal not only to Conservatives with both a big and a small "C", but also to Liberals with both a small and a big "L".

Concluded

Ian Gilmore

The author is Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham.

Television would enhance not diminish parliamentary stature

Imagine a Disraeli on the small screen

Long ago, in the days when Lord Boothby was the star of a television panel game, Lord "Rab" Butler remarked to me, in characteristic tones of sad disdain: "You know, a lot of people really think he leads the Tory Party."

Rab thus encapsulated the suspicion with which many parliamentarians regard, and still regard, the intrusion of television into their world, their fears that it would turn the House of Commons into some sort of theatrical show.

For the many years I was a full-time political reporter, I shared these fears. Only since I have withdrawn a little from the scene has it occurred to me that they are illusory. They are illusory because the House of Commons, in its greatest moments, is a theatrical show, and a very good one. Those personalities universally recognized as parliamentary giants would still have been the stars if the proceedings always had been televised.

I was led to this conclusion by the need to look up what I remember as the greatest speech I ever heard Churchill make. It was not one of the wartime orations, but the speech on March 28, 1950, in which, as leader of the Opposition, he launched to a hostile House the theme of German rearmament.

The written record in Hansard entirely fails to capture the sense of that occasion.

Remember that a bare five years had elapsed since the revelations of Belsen, Auschwitz and Buchenwald had shocked the world. These memories were inscribed on anxious, suspicious faces on both sides of the chamber. A picture would have preserved the silence, sense and wrapt as the Master deployed his argument. The only clue in Hansard is that, in several columns of print, there is no indication of an interruption.

In fact there was an interruption, a moment of pure theatre which illustrated vividly Churchill's mastery. But one had to see it in order to comprehend it.

The grand Churchillian period were rolling towards their climax. "Here is the forward path along which we must march if the thousand-year feud between Gaul and Teutonia is to be ended. It is a constructive life into the fading romance of history. Do not let all this be cast away for small thoughts and wasterful recriminations, and memories which, if they are not to be buried, may ruin the lives of our children, and our children's children."

At this instant Ernest Bevin entered the chamber late, looking like a wasted ghost after his recent illness. Sympathetic cheers from the Labour benches threatened to wreck the intense atmosphere the speech had built up.

But with a gesture of welcome Churchill turned to the speaker and said: "I am very glad to see the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I can assure him that he has a great fund of goodwill which otherwise would only be made manifest by inference from inadequate reminiscences like my own."

I am now persuaded that television broadcasts of occasions like this—and there are others, many of them—would do incomparable service to the prestige of the House of Commons. They would bring about a wider understanding of the quality and spirit of the place, besides recording for students what otherwise would only be made manifest by inference from inadequate reminiscences like my own.

Suppose we had a television record of a speech by Charles James Fox. Then, perhaps, we could appreciate what Pitt meant when he rebuked a disarranger of his great rival: "You have never sat under the wand of the magician." I would like a picture of Peel throwing down his notes when lost for a retort to Cobden, actually to see the expressions of MPs when John Bright told them that the angel of death was abroad, and they might even hear the beating of his wings.

Moreover, it seems to me highly probable that Disraeli and Gladstone would have adapted themselves very well to television.

As one of a dwindling band who saw Lloyd George in

action, I can confidently make the same assertion in his case. I would go further. Not only would a television record render understandable the nature of the speech, but it would also have greatly enhanced that power. LC's speeches, unlike Churchill's, do not read well. It was the act as a whole, the delivery, the force of the delivery, which made them memorable, and this is not fully comprehensible without the visual dimension.

But if, as I am suggesting, television would have amplified the stature of the acknowledged giants of Parliament, it appears difficult to argue that its introduction would somehow diminish Parliament's status and character. Unless of course it is to be estimated that the age merely vacillates, and that future generations of pygmies.

But there are many, I expect, who will dismiss this view as mere "romanticism", who will contend that moments of high drama at Westminster are rare and are any way irrelevant to the real business of controlling finance and vesting legislation. They would advance the traditional doctrine that Parliament's power rests on control of expenditure, that this power is slipping away, and that the introduction of television would do nothing to restore it, and might well accelerate its loss.

Who would watch a television programme on the committee stage of the Finance Bill or the deliberations of the Select Committee on Expenditure?

The wartime criticism of Churchill might be cited, that he went to the House and had won a battle. Or Macaulay's observation on the younger Pitt recalled: "His real powers were all devoted to the task of convincing and persuading the House, while to the work of framing statutes, negotiating treaties, organizing fleets and armies and so forth, he gave only the leavings of his intellect."

In short, the case is that television would tend to enhance theatrical but unessential aspects of Parliament which, in

Wilfrid Sellars

Sierra Leone



Members of the All People's Congress form a welcoming party for the President. Right: native musicians getting into the swing at a festival.



Political power consolidated but little done for country's development

by Simon Scott Plummer

After visiting Freetown towards the end of 1973, I concluded that Dr Siaka Stevens was the only person capable of bringing stability to his country. Sierra Leone had just emerged from a notorious spell of military intervention in politics. Since 1967, when Dr Stevens was appointed Prime Minister, there had been coup and counter-coup within the army. Even the restoration of civilian rule a year later did not bring peace; the army commander led an attempted coup against Dr Stevens, who had to call in troops from neighbouring Guinea to defend himself. In those circumstances the country needed a leader with wide political experience and a national following. Dr Stevens seemed the right man for the job.

Returning to Sierra Leone earlier this year cast serious doubts on this assessment. In the intervening period the country has been spared further coups but Dr Stevens and

his All People's Congress (APC) have maintained power in an unnecessarily brutal fashion and have done little for the economic and social development of the people.

The campaign for the 1973 general election was marked by intimidation and physical violence, of which the main instruments were the police and an APC militia trained in Sierra Leone by Cubans based in Guinea. Candidates of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), which had ruled the country in the early years of independence and had about a dozen seats in the previous House of Representatives, were in most cases hindered from presenting their nomination papers.

At Kenema in the Eastern Province, for instance, they were surrounded by armed men as they approached the nomination centre. Eventually they managed to hand in their papers, but these were later seized from the returning officers and electoral commissioner, and burned. In Freetown 11 people are believed to have been killed during the campaign. From

Kambia in the Northern Province it was reported that six people had died and 15 had been admitted to hospital after the SLPP candidate's launch had been blown up and his supporters attacked on reaching the shore.

Elsewhere SLPP members were threatened with death, shot at, beaten up, thrown into jail and had their cars and houses set on fire. To a certain extent the tables had been turned on the SLPP, whose behaviour towards the APC before the 1967 coup had not been aboveboard, but APC tactics were both more ruthless and more effective.

Faced with such hostility, the SLPP decided to withdraw its candidates as it felt that to take part in the election would lend it a semblance of legality. Consequently the APC won all but one seat in the House of Representatives. The odd man out, Mr Desmond Luke, stood as an independent. However, once the results were known he threw in his lot with the APC and was appointed Foreign Minister.

Sierra Leone had become, de facto, a one-party state.

After the election President Stevens adopted a policy of reconciliation: jobs were given to SLPP supporters, and he toured the country calling for national unity. In spite of the methods used by the APC to retain power, the image of "Pa Sheki", the father of the nation, remains intact. The President knows how to get his way through a combination of patronage and threats. Sierra Leoneans are cooperating with their Government, even if reluctantly.

Dr Stevens's hold on the country is not limited to complete dominance of Parliament. He also disposes of the special powers granted under a state of emergency, which he declared in 1970 and has since renewed repeatedly. He also controls the mass media through censorship exercised by the Ministry of Information. The military have been removed from the political arena, and there is a new respect for the President and the Armed Forces. The detachment of Guinean troops,

which Sekou Toure sent to guard Dr Stevens in 1971, has returned home.

The SLPP is not banned but under the emergency regulations has to seek Government permission to hold meetings. Its leader, Mr Salia Jusu-Sheriff, told *The Times* that he feared his supporters would be detained if the SLPP engaged in overt political activity. It was, therefore, lying low for the time being.

It remains to be seen whether President Stevens will put the APC on a more permanent basis by introducing legislation to make Sierra Leone a one-party state de jure. He no doubt appreciates the danger inherent in a step of rallying opposition to his Government.

Mr Jusu-Sheriff believes that there is still widespread support for an alternative regime to the APC. He said that if the elections had been conducted fairly the SLPP would have done well throughout the country—the south and east are traditional strongholds of the party; in the north it had joined forces with the United Democratic

Party, which is backed by the locally dominant tribe, the Temne; in the west there was not much love for the SLPP but people were tired of APC rule.

President Stevens has steadily consolidated his power since the attempted coup in 1971 but has done little with it to benefit the country as a whole. The Government is dilatory in taking decisions, and appears to have only a dim notion of what development in a poor country means.

Hardly any legislation has been introduced over the past year and Parliament met for the first time in 1974 only in March. There is a lack of cooperation between ministries over projects to improve rural standards of living. Budgetary restraints are frequently ignored.

Illegal diamond mining and diamond smuggling continue on a large scale, luring people from the land in the hope of rapid fortunes, and depriving the exchequer of millions of pounds of revenue. To the accusation that it lacks the will to stamp this out, the Government

replies that to do so would cause unemployment. Many people believe the real reason for such an attitude is that prominent persons are in the pay of Lebanese diamond dealers in Freetown.

For some years the National Diamond Mining Company has issued warnings about the falling deposits of gems within Sierra Leone. Despite this threat to the mainstay of the economy the Government has done little to diversify. Agriculture accounts for only 16 per cent of total exports, and the current budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture is estimated at less than £1.5m. In the 1950s Sierra Leone achieved self-sufficiency in rice, the staple diet. This year it has contracted to import 63,000 tons at a cost of £14m.

Tourism could help to offset the heavy drain on the country's foreign exchange reserves caused by the rise in oil prices. However, hardly anything has been done to exploit the magnificent stretch of coast on the Freetown peninsula, and the Government has no comprehensive strategy for tourist development.

An attempt to galvanize the masses has been made through the self-help programme. This is the brainchild of Mr S. I. Koroma, the Vice-President, and Prime Minister, and is based on the theory that unskilled labour can be used in any construction project, thereby saving costs and involving local people. Schools, dispensaries and community centres have been built, but of late more publicity has been given to the gifts to such projects than to physical labour itself. The whole concept of self-help in Sierra Leone has been criticized as superficial; political appointees to the programme are keener on producing buildings and roads that will redound to their credit than on educating people to help themselves.

Many people ascribe the country's ills to the influence of the Creoles, the descendants of freed slaves for whom Freetown was founded in the eighteenth century. They say that the Creole population, by its conservatism and paternalistic attitude, has dampened the forces of social change within the country. Certainly the visitor to

Freetown, where the Creoles are concentrated, misses the aggressive nationalism which is taken as a sign of progress in other parts of Africa. It is also true that Creoles play a role in the Civil Service which is out of proportion to their position in the country as a whole.

However, it is unfair to blame them for all Sierra Leone's current problems. Their heyday, after all, was in the second half of the nineteenth century, since when their influence has been steadily eroded. Most government posts are filled by the men from tribal families up-country, the protectors of colonial days, and not by the descendants of the settlers who formed the colony on the western peninsula.

Sierra Leone's poor record in development results from the wrong kind of leadership at the top. The Government seems more anxious to bolster its political power than to help the country to stand on its feet. Its inertia in the face of serious economic difficulties reminds one of Britain. Like its former colonial master Sierra Leone thinks the world owes it a living.

They've still got rhythm—but the dance is changing

by Alan Hutchison

Rhythm plays a particularly important role in the way of life of all Sierra Leoneans: there is the rhythm of the children as they walk to school, balancing their books on their heads; their mothers undulating through the village carrying pitchers of water; the fishermen heaving in their lines.

In the country there is the rhythm of seed-time and harvest, and in the towns rhythm, too, is expressed through the natural musical genius of the people. "Our people express themselves

by singing and dancing—when they're happy they sing, and when they are sad they sing. Their whole life is song and dance," my Creole friend said.

The foreigner, accustomed to the cacophonous ways of the West, adjusts slowly to this mode of expression—it seems contradictory to sing at a funeral. But once you have heard the slow, mournful and soulful beat of a funeral song, it is easy to appreciate the range of emotion that can be expressed, and are expressed in every day life, through singing and dancing.

In Sierra Leone, as in most African countries, the larger patterns, if not the rhythms, of life are being disturbed. Predictably the largest social change in the past decade has been the drift away from the country. Young men are no longer satisfied with the unambitious aims of subsistence farming, with simple village life or with the strict regimen of a local or Paramount Chief.

Yet less predictably, they have not always been lured by the bright city lights. In many Sierra Leoneans' eyes there is far greater potential

glitter in the diamond-bearing alluvium, and hundreds of thousands of them have gone to try their luck either as freelance licensed diggers, as unauthorized diggers or to work for the mining company.

The lure is understandable, its appeal is to the gambling instinct: just one small stone, the digger thinks, and my fortune is made. Diamond searching replaces horse gambling, pools and practically sport itself—so that when I asked a Sierra Leonean what was the national sport he immediately replied: looking for diamonds.

While the "san-san" boys, as the hopeful diamond searchers are called, pick and sift their way through the alluvial gravel the older generation in the villages pursue their traditional shifting-crop method of cultivation. The poor laterite soil allows only one crop every seven years on average, so the villagers clear a little land every year, until the seventh year, when they are back to plot one. It is a wasteful, poor-yielding method of agriculture. The Government is doing its best to introduce more modern techniques, but traditional

forming acrobatic feats at the suspicious time of the year, to greet some dignitary on his arrival.

In the centre of many villages is a hut, usually exclusively reserved for men, called a *sema* and in from one post to another it is the Sierra Leonean rural equivalent of a community hall. Here, after work, the men go to smoke and gossip, and young men and women are slung from one post to another; it is the Sierra Leonean rural equivalent of a community hall. Here, after work, the men go to smoke and gossip, and young men and women are slung from one post to another; it is the Sierra Leonean rural equivalent of a community hall.

houses in New Orleans style and its still leisured pace of life, is no Lagos. A recent urban social phenomenon is the working wife. As a lady prone to import Sierra Leone has been hit particularly hard by world inflation, especially in imported food prices.

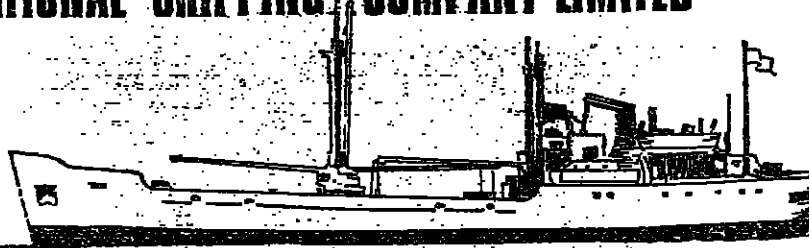
Family budgets have suffered, and most middle-class wives now go out to work as teachers, secretaries or nurses. A consequence of this trend has been a boom in day nurseries in Freetown, because often the grandmother, who normally would have looked after the young children, is out at work as well.

The Creoles in Sierra Leone are unquestionably a class apart and this is underlined by their high salaries, their customs and by the fact that most of them refer to the other tribes as the indigenous people. Early this century the descendants of the freed slaves were used by the British as a mandarin class along the coast, and Creole teachers and administrators were to be found fairly widely in Ghana and Nigeria. They adopted British names, mostly hyphenated as they came to understand quickly that they were better than single ones, and British customs.

For example, when I asked a Creole if there were Creole secret societies analogous to the uncourtly *Kekadevils*, the Bondo, Soko or Gorbou, Dennis replied: "Well, we have the Freemasons."

As an intelligent, industrious and well-educated section of the people, the Creoles have made an enormous contribution to Sierra Leone, particularly since independence, they have been edged out of the top positions by the native tribes, so that typically a minister will be a Mende or a Temne with a Creole permanent secretary.

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the gathering and preparation of food is the natural rhythm of village life. Simply subsisting absorbs a great deal of time and energy. Rice is the country's staple diet, so the men plant, tend it and harvest it. The women are left with the tedious job of pounding the grain with a pestle, and preparing the food. Even on what someone from the West would regard as free days leisure activities are centred on food. The men set off perhaps a home-made hunting gun, in search of antelope, monkeys, birds and lesser game, or if they are adventurous, the small forest elephant which are to be found near the Guinean border.

No licence is needed to shoot game in Sierra Leone, so there is none of the furtiveness of the East African tribesman hunting for the porcupine. The women go off fishing, either with a simple line and hook, or sometimes with large fan-shaped nets which they balance gracefully on their heads.

Town life, naturally, seems more familiar to someone from the West. In Freetown and the other larger towns there is nothing peculiarly African about the cinemas, sports stadiums, supermarkets and traffic jams. The seemingly crowded sal urban ills of overcrowded living conditions, unemployment and a rising crime rate are accompanied by the growth of the towns, but perhaps not to the same extent as in larger neighbouring countries.

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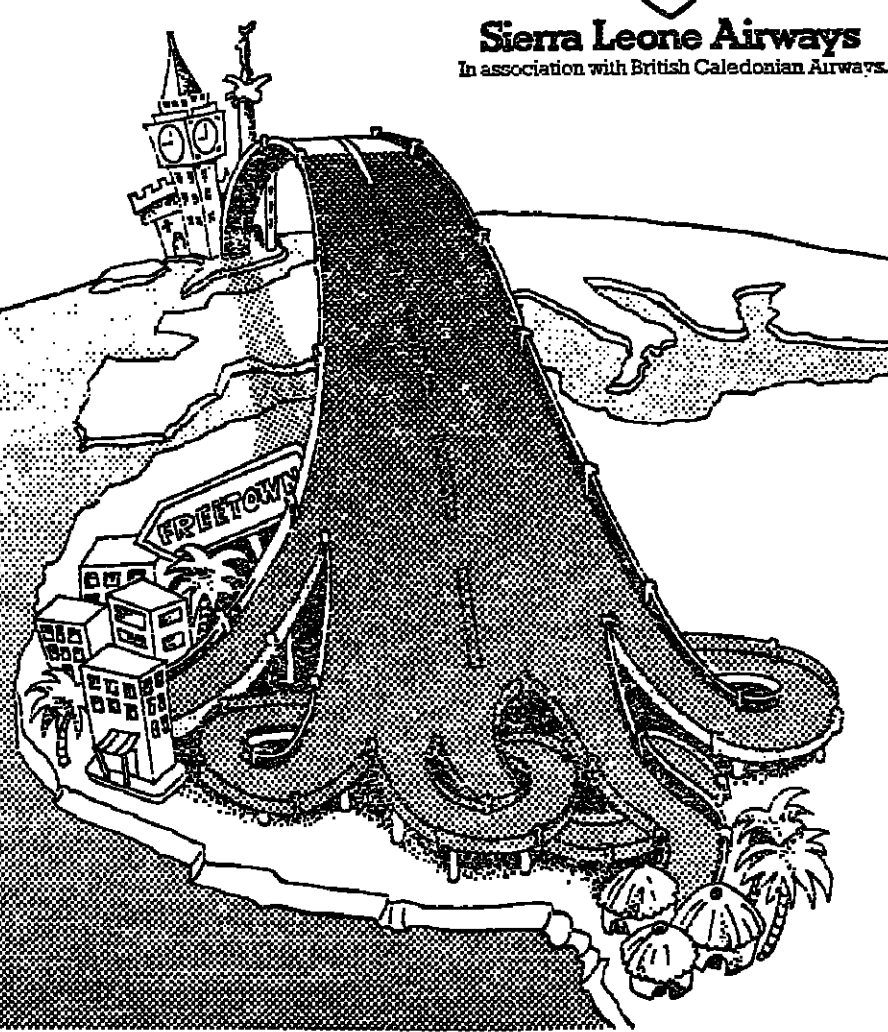
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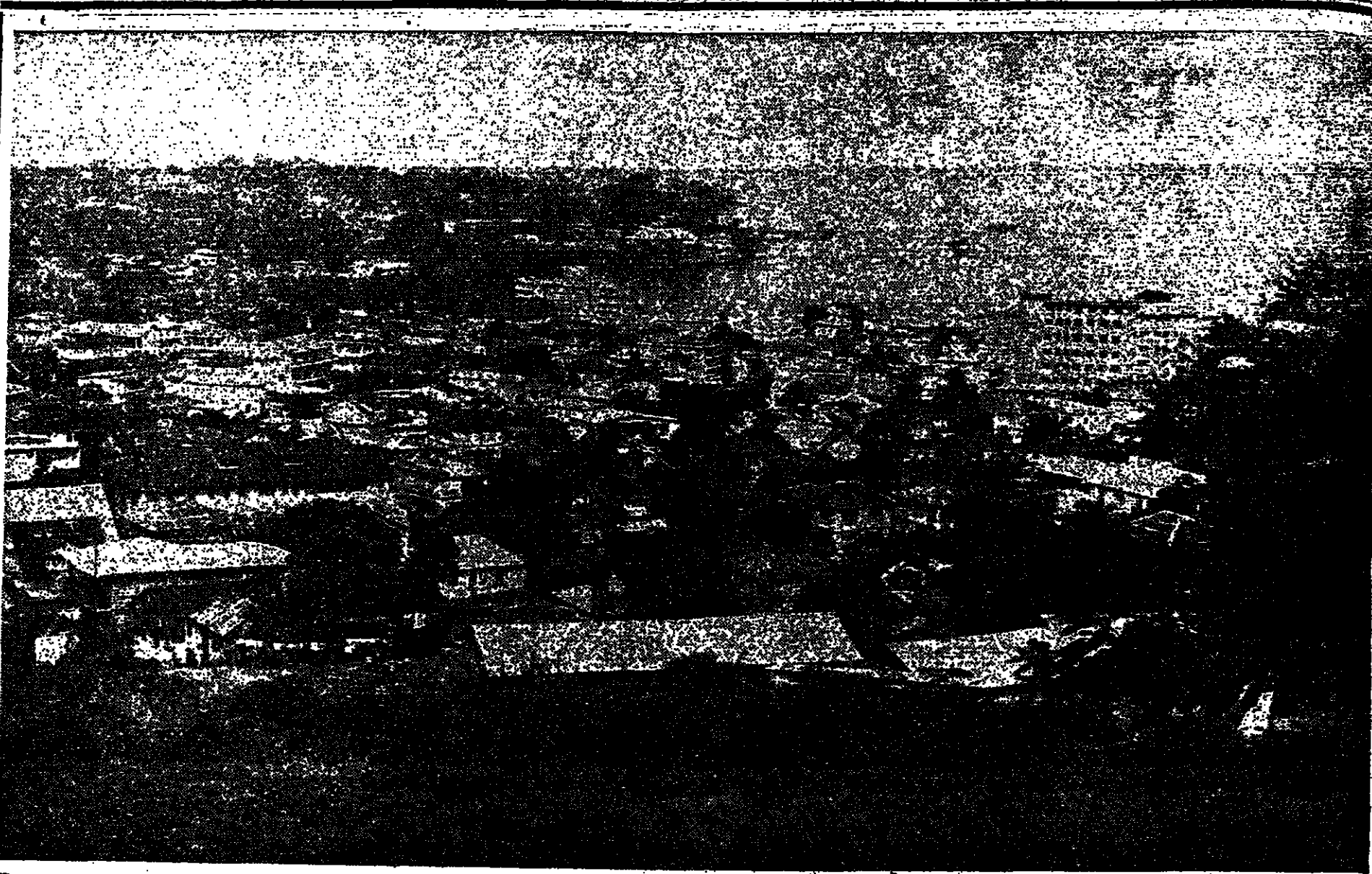
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On other pages

Foreign policy	Godfrey Morrison	II
Economy	Godfrey Morrison	III
Minerals	Godfrey Morrison	IV
Tourism	Alan Hutchison	IV
Map		IV
Education	Simon Scott Plummer	V
Contemporary writers	Eldred Jones	VI
Wildlife	Geoffrey Field	VII

Handwritten note in Arabic script at the top right of the page.



Freetown: an important project is the road being built between the Sierra Leone capital and Monrovia in Liberia.

Multinational bodies give small countries a bigger voice

by Godfrey Morrison
editor,
Africa Confidential

Sierra Leone pursues a conventional policy of non-alignment in foreign affairs. This is well illustrated by the fact that of its relations with major non-African states the most cordial at present are those with Britain and China. Like most small states Sierra Leone places great value on its membership of multinational bodies such as the Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the non-aligned groupings, both because of the material benefits that these associations can bring and because through them the Government can make its voice heard in the world.

mate debates had brought new life to it. Mr Luke said also that the Commonwealth and the non-aligned groupings were of particular importance now that so much in international politics was decided by the super-powers. In saying this he echoed a cry one hears throughout Africa and the Third World: "Individually our voices are too small and the super-powers will take no notice of us unless we get together."

Of particular importance in Sierra Leone's foreign policy are relations with its immediate northern and southern neighbours, Guinea and Liberia. Relations with Guinea have had a direct bearing on the country's domestic politics in recent years. During the period of military rule President Stevens lived for some time in exile and developed cordial relations in Conakry with Guinea's left-wing President, Mr Sekou Touré.

When he came to power but could not trust his own turbulent army, Dr Stevens was supplied with a detachment of Guinea troops to guard the frank and inter-

national security. There is a defence agreement between the two countries and still much coming and going between Freetown and Conakry. However, the Guinea troops left at the time of last year's elections and there are indications that relations may now be slightly less close than they were. One of the problems is that Mr Sekou Touré, true to his revolutionary beliefs, has taken what many Sierra Leoneans feel is rather too close an interest in their domestic politics. Moreover the ideological gulf between the two governments is wide and has been openly acknowledged at the top.

In practical cooperation, too, a number of difficulties present themselves: not the least of these is Guinea's chronic foreign exchange position, which for the present rules out any ambitious trade arrangements between the two countries.

Official spokesmen for the Sierra Leone Government profess that relations with Guinea are as good as ever, but one suspects they do so out of loyalty to President Sekou Touré, who gave such valuable support in the past. It is hard to imagine that Freetown welcomed Guinean attempts to involve Sierra Leone in its recent running quarrel with Senegal and Ivory Coast (which it accused of plotting with the French the overthrow of President Sekou Touré's Government).

It is that the Sierra Leone Government was pleased by Guinea Radio's allegations that the French Embassy in Freetown was a centre of anti-Touré subversion. On Mr Sekou Touré's side there are reports that he is disappointed by the lack of revolutionary fervour of President Stevens's regime.

coordination of economic development plans. Diplomatic relations with China, which were formally established in 1971, have quickly blossomed. Mr Luke said that this was made clear by President Stevens's visit to Peking last year, during which there were detailed discussions. "These talks were highly satisfactory", Mr Luke said. The Chinese were "going to increase their economic cooperation in quite a substantial way".

Already the Chinese have supplied experts in rice growing (who have replaced Taiwanese doing a similar job), medical assistance, small arms and ammunition

for the armed forces, and so on. There is also talk of a stadium being built. Relations with the Soviet Union have not been so enthusiastic, presumably because the Russians have never been particularly forthcoming with aid, but also because of admiration for the way the Chinese have gone about solving their economic problems, particularly in food production. This is something that Dr Stevens's Government feel is more easily emulated by a country such as theirs than are the impressive but different achievements of the Russians.

Of relations with the west-

ern powers those with Britain are probably closest, partly for historical reasons, partly because of trade links and partly because of a steady and long programme. "We value the extremely close ties", Mr Luke said. He is an example of the historical link, being an Oxford graduate. "Our relations with Britain are as good as ever. We have always had extremely close ties. But trade with Britain is not on the increase; not the least of the reasons are Britain's problems." He added: "We are disappointed about the differences of view over Rhodesia. Britain is still in a unique position to solve this unfortunate problem."

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Diamonds are not forever so economy must be diversified quickly

Viewed in the medium term the central problem of Sierra Leone's economy is whether diversification, particularly into agriculture, can take place rapidly enough before the country's present main source of wealth, diamonds, begins to decline seriously.

Although the country's economy does not present particularly rosy pictures at the moment, the encouraging factor is the growing awareness in government circles of the need to come about that diamonds are a rapidly wasting asset and that the problem of finding new sources of employment, foreign exchange and government revenue is becoming urgent.

The four main Sierra Leonean diamond deposits, which account for about 60 per cent of export earnings and a huge chunk of the Government's domestic revenues, have been the cause of the country's economic stagnation. This has enabled successive governments to survive without paying proper attention to the agricultural sector, in which most of the country's population is engaged.

Moreover, because of the huge revenues available from smuggling and other malpractices, many observers believe that the existence of the diamonds has been a major factor in encouraging corruption, which has proved a persistent and serious problem for all the regimes, by which have ruled the country since independence.

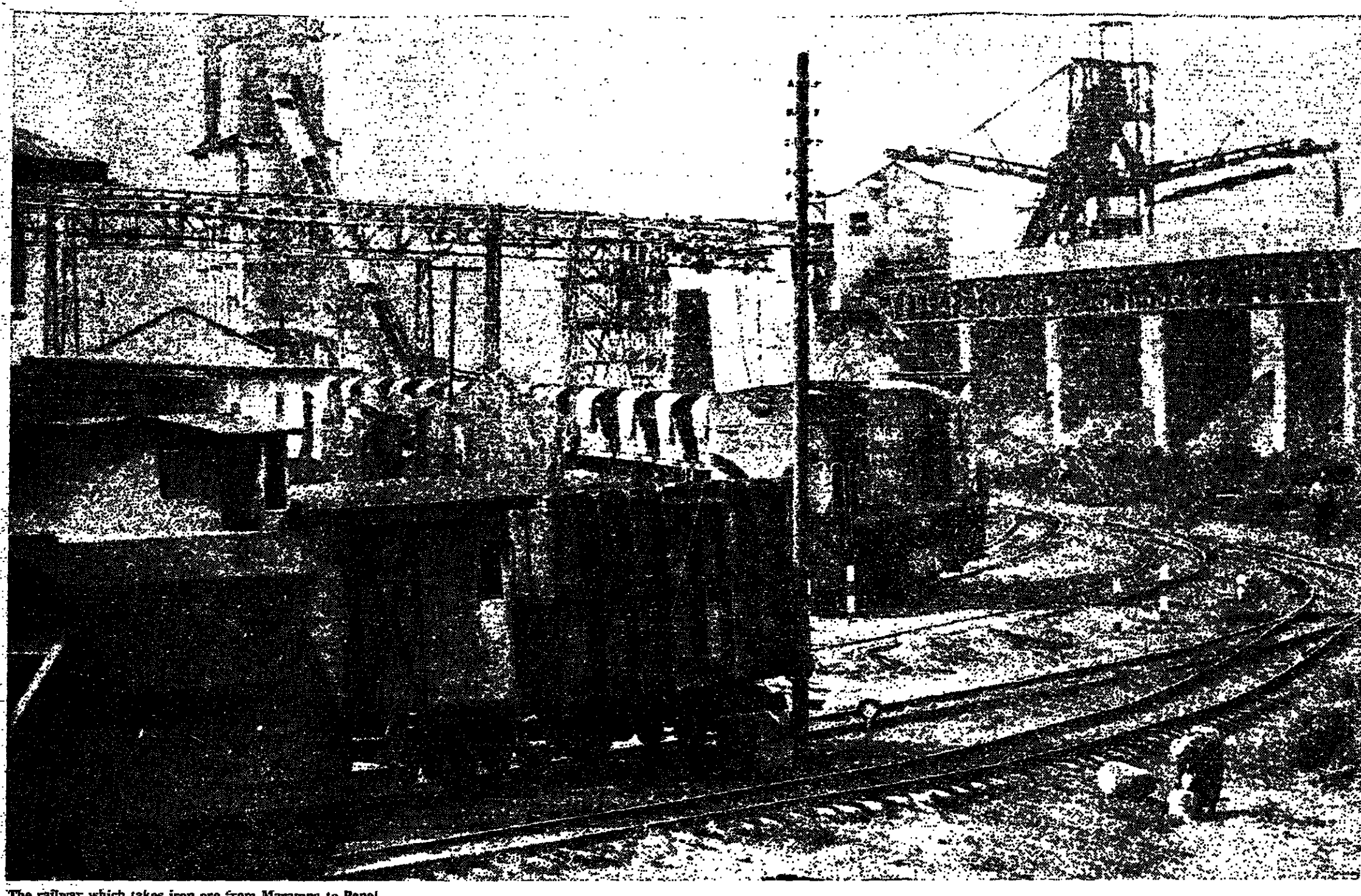
Sierra Leone used to suffer from large foreign trade deficits but these have been narrowing thanks to better export prices for all products, particularly minerals.

In the first 10 months of 1973 imports rose sharply from 78m leones (£39m) in the corresponding period in 1972 to 102m leones. Exports also climbed from 69m leones to 80m leones, the biggest component of this increase being a rise in the value of diamond exports from 38m leones to 45m.

At the end of October foreign reserves stood at 35m leones compared with 32m a year earlier.

Just how bad the effect of the past six months' oil price increases will be is difficult to say. However, since one of the major problems of the economy was already inflation and a recurrent tendency of the Government to exceed its current expenditure estimates, the effects could be serious indeed.

Mr S. L. Bangura, the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, recently confirmed these fears and the need for caution. In a review of the economy he placed particular



The railway which takes iron ore from Marampa to Pepel.

emphasis on the effect of external forces over which his country had no control. He listed currency fluctuations, oil shortages and the cutback in industrial production of Sierra Leone's trading partners as major problems, while also expressing the fear that foreign aid and capital flows could decline as the donor countries' balance of payments deteriorated. This would mean the trade deficit would get worse once again.

Export performance was not expected to improve this year compared with last year, and the import bill would probably be "so huge as to create serious balance of payments problems".

He also predicted that local subsidies on oil and food would transform a planned budget surplus into a substantial deficit which would have to be financed from capital receipts. This in turn would leave fewer funds for planned economic development.

Mr Bangura's summary of Sierra Leone's economic difficulties could be applied to a multiplicity of other developing countries in the wake of the oil and monetary crises.

Rising prices, now that a de facto one-party state exists, are the Government's most serious political problem. This explains why over the past few years, officials in controlling its own expenditure, the Government has felt it necessary to cushion the effects of rising oil prices by means of subsidy, or more accurately, by raising some of the excise taxes.

Perhaps the product price which is most sensitive politically is that of rice, a staple food. Although rice production has always been one of the main occupations of the country's peasant farmers, the crop does not meet demand.

This year a shortage of about 60,000 tons is likely and given the rapid recent rises in the world price it is possible that rice imports, like oil imports, will damage the country's foreign trade position in the months to come, as well as helping to fuel the inflationary trend.

The Government's official goal is self-sufficiency in rice but this will probably take some time since efforts to teach the swamp rice techniques needed by the new high-yield strains have not yet been successful. Because of the country's changing foreign policy the Chinese now play a dominant role in this sector where once the Nationalists did.

In the first four months of 1973 rice worth over £1m was imported, more than four times as much as in the same period of the previous year. Observers believe that the situation could get worse before it gets better.

The agricultural scene is not one of unrelieved gloom. Coffee, the most valuable export crop, showed decreased production last year. However, because of rising world prices coffee export earnings rose from 6.4m leones in the first six months of 1972 to 7.1m leones in the same period of 1973. Earnings from cocoa also climbed sharply for the same reason. The value of palm kernel exports, the third significant agricultural export earner, declined slightly.

Britain is by far the largest trade partner, buying about two-thirds of Sierra Leone's exports and accounting in most years for about a quarter of the country's imports. It should also be noted that most diamond exports go to the Central Selling Organization in London, from where they are mostly re-exported to third countries.

If hopes for the future are to be based at least to a large extent on agriculture, then the integrated agricultural project in the Eastern Province, financed mainly by a £1.5m credit from the World Bank, offers some encouragement.

The project, which includes the expansion of the Daru oil palm plantation, have got off to a good start.

Another big integrated agricultural scheme is planned for the Northern Province. This will also encourage the export of cash crops, including tobacco. Tobacco is already grown by some smallholders for local consumption and it has been found to produce the highest cash return per acre of any crop. The initial aim is to cut the present import bill of the local tobacco manufacturers, which stands at about 1m leones.

President Stevens's Government has pursued a fairly cautious and moderate economic policy in ideological terms. An earlier decision to seek majority government participation in all mining activities, including the Sierra Leone Development Corporation, Delco, was shelved although there is still hope in favour of the Government defining more clearly its attitude towards foreign investment.

The country's close relationship with President Sekou Touré's Guinea, one of Africa's most revolution-

ary states as far as official propaganda is concerned, although the country's mineral resources are being developed in close association with the world's large trading machine in dealing with external requests for information or formal proposals for investment.

A good example of this is the tourist industry, which has developed slowly despite the existence of good natural resources — magnificent beaches and a reasonable climate during Europe's coldest months.

Because of its size, the future of Sierra Leone's economy, like those of almost all African states, will depend

to a great extent on arrangements made in the coming years for cooperation with neighbouring countries and with the world's large trading blocks such as the European Economic Community.

Sierra Leone supports the formation of a West African economic community; it is also taking part in the Brussels negotiations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific states which have been offered some form of association with EEC. Of more immediate concern are the arrangements now envisaged for a free trade zone with Liberia.

G.M.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

We are advancing with confidence

by His Excellency the President, Dr. Siaka P. Stevens



SIERRA LEONE, like every new nation, encountered many difficulties after independence. Even at independence itself, many of our All People's Congress leaders fell foul for demanding the right of the people to elect their own parliament before independence.

This followed a period of political strife and economic stagnation. It culminated in a military coup in 1967 which frustrated the people's choice for an APC government.

With the restoration of elected civilian government in 1968, the All People's Congress took up the task of government with a determination to tackle the problems of new nationhood and to improve the living standards of the people. It was realised that after 15 years of government, the economic disturbances witnessed during the first years of independence, this task would not prove easy nor be accomplished quickly. Nevertheless, we were determined to succeed.

Our first three years of office proved most difficult. These years were punctuated with coups, counter-coups, plots and intrigues which seriously damaged our country's reputation and general economic development in many ways. These unfortunate events affected stability, slowed down the tempo of development, and left us little time and opportunity to achieve our goals.

With a determined will, the end of our first five years of government left a record of achievement which I can proudly say, surpasses any previous record in the field of expansion and general economic development. Our own strides have been taken towards the goal of creating a united, progressive Sierra Leone.

We were left with a large trade deficit, heavy debts, political and economic chaos. Since coming into office, my government has transformed the trade deficit into a healthy surplus, repaid most of the debts, more than doubled our overseas assets, provided social services, reorganised the army. Moreover, while restoring our country's national economy and providing political stability, we have found time to increase the welfare of our own citizens.

In order to complete the process of establishing a completely independent nation, we became the Republic of Sierra Leone in April 1971. There was no slight on Britain, and certainly not a disrespect for the Queen, whom we hold in the highest regard. But, like all other African states, we felt that our head of State must be one of our own citizens. The Queen remains recognized by us as Head of the Commonwealth, of which we are a member.

It was in the same spirit of seeking our complete independence that we turned to nationalise our important diamond industry. The wealth of our land belongs to the citizens of Sierra Leone. Although we still need the help of financiers to provide

the skills and capital not yet acquired by a sufficient number of our own people, control of our wealth must rest in the hands of our own people. We have made friendly arrangements with the Selection Trust (now DIMINCO) and the Iron Mining Company, DELCO, for more effective participation by government in the affairs of these Companies and for increased revenue for the State.

My Government has also acquired 51 per cent majority shares in Sierra Leone Airways while the two foreign banks have been locally incorporated. We have opened an entirely Government-owned National Commercial Bank and a National Insurance Company. The number of banks in the country has also been established with Government owning 50 per cent shares.

This acceptance of government responsibility for the direction of national affairs has also been shown in the provision of a steady improvement in the social life of our people. There are more children in primary and secondary schools than ever before. As a result we have had considerable success in increasing our food supplies, with rice, coffee and ginger showing special progress.

Greater emphasis is also being placed on public health in general and the need for curative and preventive medicine to be fully integrated into a comprehensive health care service. The effect of this has been an unprecedented awareness by the public of the advantages derivable from modern methods of health care and treatment reflecting itself in an up-surge in the demands for health care facilities in one form or the other throughout the country.

In all, the A.P.C. government has led the Sierra Leonean people to earn higher incomes with the ability to increase their consumption and therefore raise their personal and family standards of life.

I make bold to say that the satisfaction of the people that the A.P.C. government has the ability and will to improve their living conditions is reflected itself in the results of the last General Election held in May 1973. The A.P.C. was re-elected into power by an overwhelming majority of the people in Sierra Leone, and the one reason for this can be briefly summed up as Confidence in the A.P.C.

Ours is a record of steady improvement from a starting-point of intense difficulty. We have not, of course, solved all our

problems; but we are confident in the direction we are taking. Our aim is to create a better society based on social justice: a nation healthy, literate, well-fed, fitted to make a better country for our children. Citizens of Sierra Leone control all aspects of our national life, but we welcome partnership with those of other countries who will invest in our success, or help us to train our young people for the tasks of a modern age.

We remain enthusiastic members of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Organisation of African Unity. Our foreign policy is based on non-alignment, judging every international issue on its merits, irrespective of the great powers involved. In particular, we are keen supporters of the concept of regional co-operation. We have already drawn closer to our two neighbours, Liberia and Guinea. We hope to extend this co-operation to other parts of West Africa. We are confident that together we can contribute to the growing African solidarity in the common interests of African people everywhere.

86 years of history and development

Since the first settlement in 1787, Sierra Leone has been the pioneer in West Africa with 'firsts' in education, local government, railways, postage stamps, redistribution service and telephones.

Four Colleges, founded in 1827 and now part of The University of Sierra Leone, were for many years the only institution of higher education in Africa south of the Sahara. Sierra Leone, which had higher education before Britain established a Ministry of Education, was known as 'the Athens of West Africa'.

Government in Sierra Leone developed from company rule by a Board of Directors in 1790 to a democratic Republic established 19 April 1971.

Sierra Leone became an independent sovereign state on 27 April

1961. The date was agreed at the constitutional conference in London from 20 April to 4 May 1960, presided over by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Iain Macleod. The Sierra Leone all-party delegation was led by the first Prime Minister Sir Milton Margai.

Freetown, the capital, became a Municipal Council in 1893, the oldest municipality in Africa. Sierra Leone's boundary on the north-west, north and north-east with Guinea was agreed with the French Government in 1893. Its boundary on the south-east with Liberia was agreed during 1882-1885, and 1911.

Much progress has taken place in Sierra Leone and the government and people are now engaged in the tasks of economic development and nation-building. Sierra Leone has a long democratic tradition.

13 years of independence in the crucible of nationhood

DURING the first dozen years of independence Sierra Leoneans have seen substantial improvements in their way of life. First, the children: the number at primary school has increased from 81,611 to 135,967; at secondary school from 6,255 to 36,352, while university enrolment expanded from 421 to 1,329. Second, the sick; the number of Nursing Sisters was doubled from 20 to 40, of Ward Sisters more than doubled, from 60 to 130, Nurses and Midwives increased from 383 to 577, dispensers from 72 to 153. Two deadly diseases, yaws and smallpox, were eradicated. Third, in amenities: the supply of electricity increased from 51,169,000 to 194,364,000 kilowatts, private cars from 6,895 to 24,465, buses from 2,893 to 11,698.

These are a few indices of improving life as the nation developed. They were made possible by economic growth. Government revenue grew from Le 27 million to Le 59 million over the period. Despite necessary spending on development, the foreign reserves were about as high at the end as at the beginning, at around Le 30 million.

This period was marked by a quiet start, a trough of depression during the middle years and a recovery during the last five years. By 1967, the year of the first coup, exports had fallen catastrophically, there was a large trading deficit and external reserves had fallen to less than half their 1961 value. Yet, in the following year, record exports were produced, the first post-independence trading surplus achieved and the reserves restored almost to their 1961 position.

Nevertheless, although this represented a remarkable achievement by the new Stevens' government, political unrest continued to break out spasmodically to the end of the decade. The creation of the republic under President Stevens largely ended political factionalism and united the country behind his leadership.

Meanwhile, Sierra Leone had taken her place as a full member of the international community. She became a member of the Commonwealth immediately on attaining independence. In 1963 she became a founding member of the Organisation of African Unity. For served on the UN Security Council, she took an active role in various special committees and sent her diplomats to various capitals throughout the world. As Prime Minister Dr Stevens represented his country at the Non-Aligned conferences in Lusaka in 1970 and in Algiers in 1973. From 1970 he began to build regional links with neighbours Liberia and Guinea.

To sum up: the post-independence era has been a time of political and economic fluctuations. By the end of the period a new plateau had been reached after a time of extreme recession. Dangers and difficulties still faced the nation. The question on which the future would depend was how much had been learned from the experience of the 1960s in facing the hazards of the 1970s.

Investment opportunities

FOREIGN investors can rest assured that their interests will always receive adequate protection under the Statute of Sierra Leone as long as they are in the forefront of West African development.

The objective of President Stevens' government has been to expand the country's infrastructure so as to increase the opportunities for economic activity. Thus roads are lengthening, their condition improved; new water supplies have been provided; telephones and telex facilities have been brought up to date; massive capital investment has been made in the ports; air services are rapidly expanding.

The government hopes that these facilities will encourage foreign investors to recognise the advantages offered by Sierra Leone, which has long been in the forefront of West African education, thus providing an unusual reservoir of local skilled workers. As communications now begin to stretch out to neighbouring countries like Liberia and Guinea, the chances of industrial expansion take on an international aspect.

The objective of the government is to encourage the participation of foreign companies either in partnership with government or independently. Already the government has entered into participatory agreements in mining. It is particularly anxious to encourage the growth of industries using local raw materials, especially those closely connected with agricultural development.

Foreign investment is largely governed by the Sierra Leone Development Act. Under this development certificates are granted. These provide for tax holidays varying from two to five years according to risk and size of investment. Already over 30 industries and manufacturing enterprises have taken advantage of these concessions.

It should also be pointed out that a modern industrial estate has been built just outside Freetown. The Wellington Estate on the main road from Freetown to the provinces, is supplied with good water, electricity and banking services. A number of small to medium industries are already operating successfully there, providing a base from which industry can readily expand.

Diamonds continued to provide over half the export revenues and in 1970 the Government earned a 21 per cent interest in the Sierra Leone Selection Trust monopoly, forming a new company. The National Diamond Mining Company (Sierra Leone) Limited, DIMINCO, iron ore remained second only to diamonds, with bauxite and rutile contributing to the 90 per cent of total exports provided by minerals.

In the early years of independence industrialisation grew rapidly. Foreign capital recognised its opportunity and, aided by generous tax concessions, led to many factories goods locally. Thirty-three different industries established themselves, their products varying from nails to paints, from cigarettes and beer to cement and plastic footwear, from metal building materials to furniture.

Yet the majority of Sierra Leoneans have remained agriculturists since before independence. They continue to live in the countryside, growing their own food, sometimes adding cash crops for consumption in the towns or for export.

The major aim in the agricultural sector since independence has been to make the country self-sufficient in food and to increase its contribution to exports. Some success has been achieved in both objectives. The Pig and Poultry Association, operating as a cooperative, succeeded in increasing the pig population and attaining virtual self-sufficiency in eggs, a valuable source of protein. The number of cattle also substantially increased to about 410,000 head.

Yet the main concentration during the 1960s was on efforts to increase the production of rice, the staple food of the people. The Rice Research station at Rokupri in the Northern Province made a major contribution to this effort by breeding high yielding varieties suitable for the varying environments found within Sierra Leone. With the assistance of greatly expanded mechanisation resulting from substantial purchases of tractors, the acreage available for cultivation was more than doubled during the decade. Rice was being produced in the north, east and south. The objective of self-sufficiency was in sight, promising better supplies for the country's inhabitants, a saving on import expenditure and the possibility of new export revenues.

By 1973 coffee had replaced palm kernels as the principal export crop. In addition to these two products, cocoa and ginger also contributed to agricultural exports which brought in 17 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings.

This may sound like a store of steady progress during the first twelve years of independence. That would be a false picture. During the first decade Sierra Leoneans lived under the rule of governments experienced two military coups, saw several unsuccessful attempts at political assassination and concluded the decade by changing from a monarchy to a republic.



For further information please contact the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone. Cables: Mintrap Freetown

Smuggling and illicit mining bedevil industry assailed by recession

by Godfrey Morrison

Mineral production, and above all diamond mining, remains the backbone of the Sierra Leone economy. But diamonds are a wasting asset, and parallel with the Government's new emphasis on the importance of developing the country's agricultural resources is the encouragement being given to the discovery and exploitation of minerals other than the all-powerful diamond.

There are two main sectors of the diamond mining industry in Sierra Leone. First there is the mining of the so-called "lease" areas, carried on by the National Diamond Mining Company of Sierra Leone (Dimitico). This is owned by the Government (51 per cent of the equity) and Selection Trust (SLST), which owns 49 per cent and has a management contract. Then there is the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme which sells to the Government Diamond Office (GDO).

Over the years two major and it seems irremovable, ills have afflicted the country's diamond industry: the smuggling of diamonds (mainly to neighbouring Liberia) and illicit digging by "strangers" on the lease areas. Both deprive the country of much needed export earnings and local government

revenue; however, so powerful have the vested interests proved and so great are the sums of money available to the smugglers that no Sierra Leone government, despite repeated protestations of good intent, has ever steered itself to deal with the problems.

A recent booklet with colour photographs, published by Dimitico, gave warning that if the illicit mining continued on its present scale the future of the company could be endangered. So great are the financial rewards of selling diamonds, however they may be obtained, that the illicit diggers will go to the most extraordinary lengths to hunt down their prey. Some will dig with crude air lines from canoes to search gravel beds (many die in the process); others will dig complete terrace workings during the night on the lease areas or will dig workings right up to the edge of an air strip or even dig up roads.

There have even been cases of diggings right outside a police post.

Then there is smuggling. This is advantageous, particularly during a period when the world diamond market is strong, because by selling the diamonds through Liberia they avoid the higher Sierra Leone export tax; also they can choose which type of diamond to sell. This is an advantage because though the

GDO buys the various types and grades of diamonds at set prices during a given period to ensure a stable market and orderly prices, the world demand for, and therefore price of, particular grades and sizes of diamonds fluctuate quite widely. One of the most impressive aspects of the whole of the smugglers' activities is how well and quickly informed they are of world market conditions.

In February came an announcement by the Government of an impending end to the monopoly of the Government Diamond Office's rights to buy diamonds from the small diggers of the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme. The GDO has hitherto sold all its diamonds through the Diamond Corporation of West Africa (Dicor), whose central selling organization sells Dicor purchases, like those of producers all over the world, in London (Dicor also has a management contract to run the GDO).

The GDO/Dicor monopoly has naturally often been criticised but until now successive Sierra Leone governments felt the disadvantages of the arrangement were outweighed by its several advantages: the Central Selling Organization's monopoly and control of the market was seen by many people as benign because the producers could always sell their diamonds even when there

was no "natural" demand on the world market. This was because Dicor, through the GDO, undertook to buy at set prices whatever the state of the world market, something they could afford to do in view of their huge financial resources.

It is too early to say what the practical results of the end of the monopoly will be. The Government has said that five new firms, from various countries, will be licensed to buy and export raw diamonds—but two months after the announcement the identity of these firms had not been disclosed officially.

Last year was perhaps the most eventful on the world diamond scene for it saw both the biggest boom and the biggest slump the market has ever known. Until August prices climbed steadily, with the Central Selling Organization (CSO) in London raising its prices, which effectively control the world price, no less than four times. The reason for the rapid increase was the boom in the United States, Japanese and European economies coupled with almost continuous currency fears.

In the autumn came the Middle East war, which had the incidental effect of curtailing most of the Tel Aviv diamond cutting industry. Also, as so often occurs in a boom market in any commodity, some dealers had

seriously over-traded and there were a number of serious bankruptcies in Japan. The oil crisis and expensive money conditions followed, which dealt a sort of coup de grace to this volatile market, and the sharpest recession ever known set in quickly.

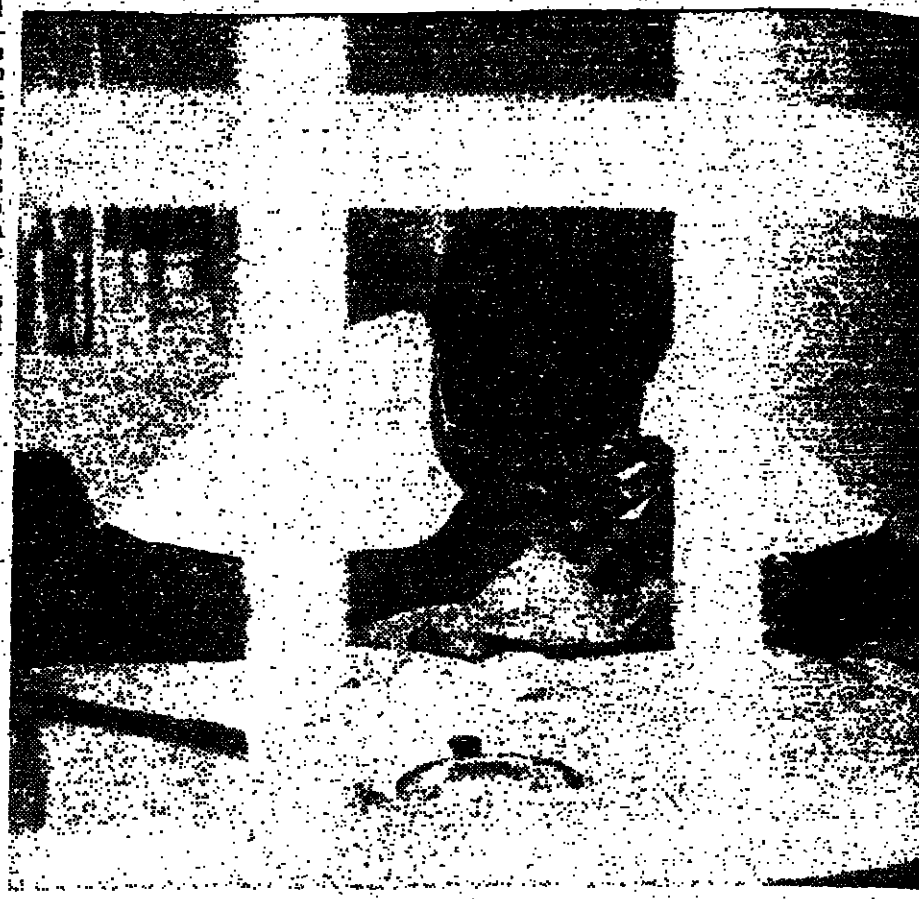
Perhaps the most vivid illustration of the extraordinary change in market conditions was the fact that Liberian diamond exports (mostly smuggled diamonds from Sierra Leone) were at their highest level in the first few months of 1973, while in the first two months of this year smuggling was practically non-existent (this because even in deflated world market conditions the CSO guarantees to continue buying Sierra Leone diamonds).

The export value of diamonds in the first 10 months of 1973 was about 45m leones compared to about 38m leones in the corresponding period of the previous year. After diamonds, iron ore mined by the Sierra Leone Development Company (Dalco) is the most important mineral export (about 9.5m leones in the first 10 months of 1973). Initial figures suggested that production is now running fairly steadily at about 2,500,000 long tons of concentrates a year.

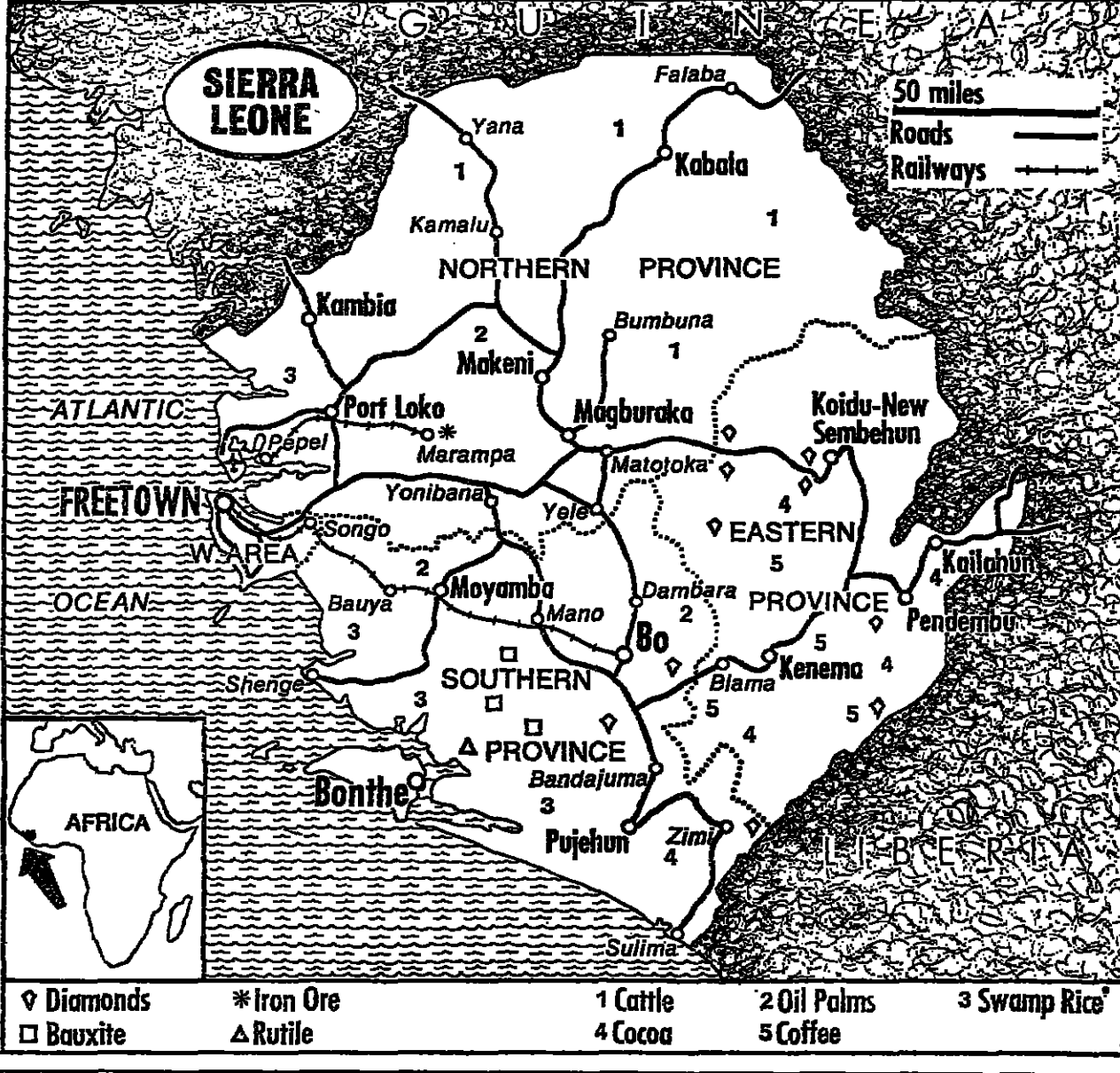
Bauxite production on a fairly modest scale by the

Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company (Sieromco) continues, with production in 1973 somewhat higher than in the previous year. Prospecting and evaluation of more bauxite deposits in the Port Loko district is well in hand and if production goes ahead—perhaps in about two years' time—this would be on a considerably bigger scale than the present workings.

Another project still in its early stages but which could have extremely interesting results is the work being done by Sierra Rutile. This company was formed in April, 1972, to take over the concession previously held by Sherbro Minerals, which never achieved a successful production because of the great difficulties posed by the ore body, described as the most difficult example of this ore in the world. A five-ton per hour pilot plant to test methods for processing the ore has been put into operation. Sierra Rutile, which is owned by the giant American concern, Bethlehem Steel (80 per cent of the equity), and Nord Resources (20 per cent), hopes to be in full production in the middle of next year with some zircon and ilmenite by-products. Another interesting development could come from Bethlehem Steel's interest in iron ore deposits in south-eastern Sierra Leone near the Liberian border.



Examining a gemstone in the government diamond buying office, Kenema.



Waking up to tourist potential

by Alan Hutchison

Sierra Leone is as enticing as its suggests. The green-covered mountains tumble into the sea, its white beaches stretch to a miley horizon, its people are charming. On a more prosaic level it is sunny during the European winter for approximately six hours by jet from Heathrow.

Its tourism potential would, therefore, seem to be unlimited, but until recently tourist arrivals have been declining. This has been mainly because of the reduction in the number of cruise ships calling at Freetown—there were only 1,562 cruise visitors in 1972, for example, compared with 3,818 in 1968.

In the past few years the huge growth in the international tourist business, and a steadily deteriorating balance of payments situation, has opened the Government's eyes to the foreign exchange and employment benefits that a properly run tourist industry could bring.

Three years ago the government-built hotel, the Cape Sierra, was handed over to private management; and British Caledonian and Kuoni have introduced the package holiday to Sierra Leone, as a result of which the estimated number of longer-term visitors last year was more than 7,500.

Most of the tourists are retired people who want guaranteed winter sunshine; possibly the husband was in the colonial service in Africa and wishes to see what changes independence has brought. But there are also a number of younger people, attracted by the idea of Africa—and also by the cheap prices. For last year's basic package price of £139 for a two-week holiday, including air fare and board and breakfast at the Cape Sierra, must have been the

travel bargain of the year. It compared, for example, with London to London to Freetown return fares of £330—and even next season's prices, approximately 25 per cent up, make a holiday in Sierra Leone a viable proposition for many people.

Sierra Leone's attractions are not confined to the coast and to sea-based activities; but it must be admitted that its up-country wildlife, although fascinating to the naturalist, does not have the same attraction for the ordinary tourist as the animal-dotted plains of East Africa.

Since much of the country is densely forested, the animals are difficult to see, and transport is still primitive in many areas. But there are duiker, civet cats, bush cows and monkeys of all varieties—and in the far north-east forest elephants and the extremely rare pigmy hippopotamus.

There is considerable debate in the tourist trade whether package tourists will feel it worth while to trek up-country for a possible fleeting glance of a shy animal many feel that expense on an animal-sporing trip is hardly surprising that Dr Sitter should want his guests to see the forest for he is an animal trapper, and the most prolific exporter of chimpanzees in the world. He came into the hotel business by accident.

The earnest of the Government's intent to develop the tourist industry came last year with the establishment of a separate ministry; but so far, except for the arrival and departure of implicitly named permanent secretaries (there were no fewer than five in about as many

months) little practical progress has been achieved.

There appears to be no overall tourism strategy—certainly there is wide disagreement about the best way of developing tourism, with Mr Barthes-Wilson, the Minister, insisting that the country wants to stop package tours and the operators insisting that there is no alternative. It is possible that the publication of the national development plan, which has a section devoted to tourism, may help to clarify some of the present ambiguous thinking.

The most obvious and pressing need is for the immediate provision of more tourist accommodation. At present the Cape Sierra with its 150 beds (although it has service facilities for twice this number) is the only genuine international tourist hotel; the businessmen's hotels—the Paramount, Brookfield and Lungi—bring to only 400 the number of beds that Freetown can offer the discerning traveller.

Future hotel development centres on just over 100 acres of land adjoining Lumley Beach (site of the Cape Sierra), on which 10 concessions have been granted. The well-known Sheraton-ITT group, in partnership with local interests, has already carried out a feasibility survey whose conclusions are said to be highly favourable—and it is expected that they will announce shortly their plans to build a 250-bed luxury hotel.

This would be just the shot in the arm the industry needs, and would probably encourage others who are at present keeping their options open to go ahead with hotel construction. It seems likely in any case that Sierra Leone entertainments, which run a casino next door to the Cape Sierra, will build a 200-bed hotel, and the logic of doubling the bed capacity of the Cape Sierra cannot be resisted for much longer—it will be just a question of whether the Government, or the lessee, Dr Sitter, will for the additions and how it will affect his present generous concessions.

It can reasonably be expected that other groups will follow the lead, and there should be no difficulty in achieving the target of 800 internationally acceptable hotel beds by 1978.

What will be more difficult to achieve is the Government's desire to establish, if not hotels, then at least lodges, in up-country areas. Until communications have been improved and potential operators can be convinced that there is a future for package tourism in the interior, it is to attract visitors throughout the year and not just in the November to April period, can be more easily achieved, and may well be operators can be convinced that there is a future for package in the off-season.

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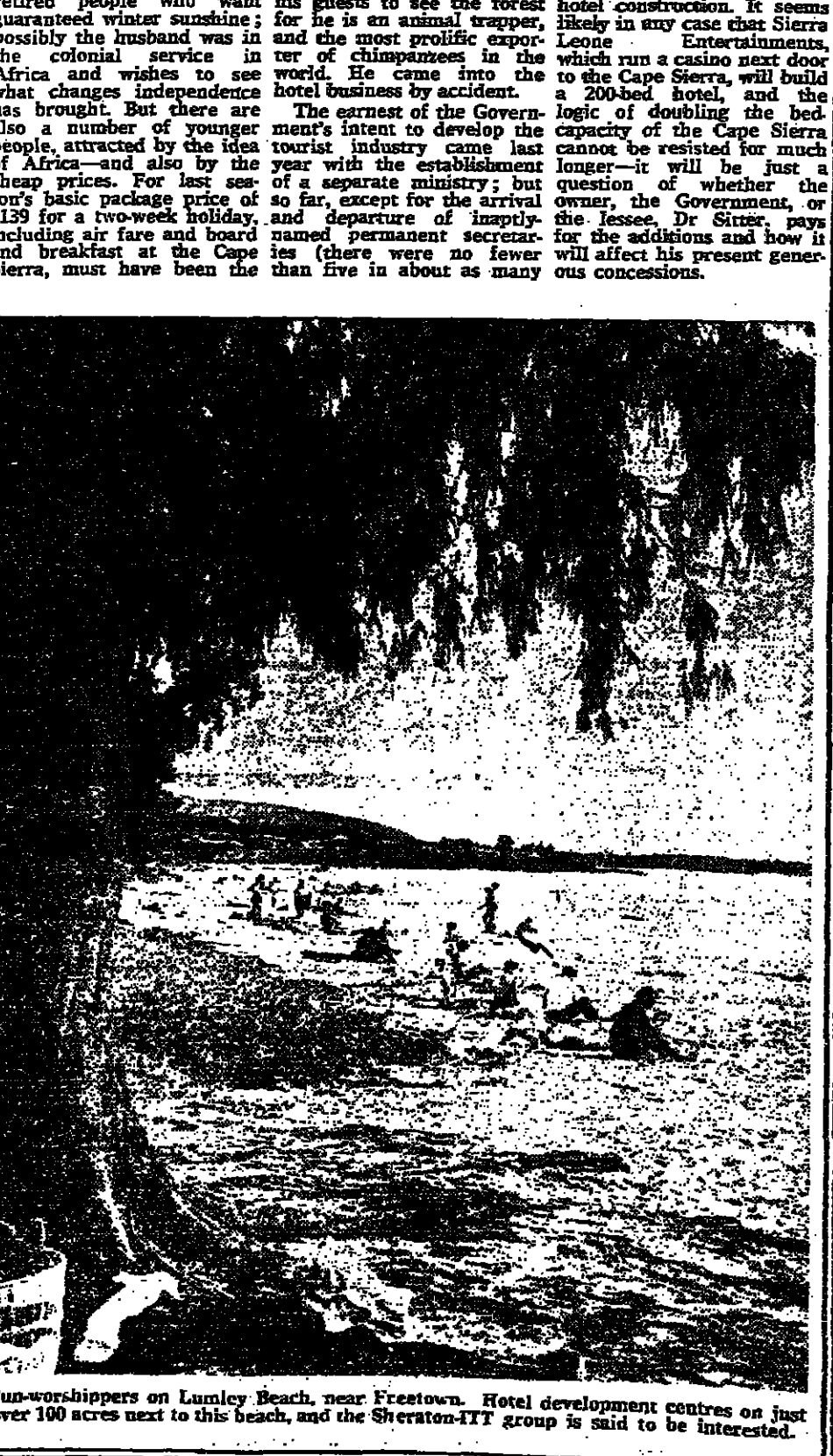
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Shadow of colonialism hangs over inadequate educational system

Simon Scott Plummer

In 1827 the Anglican Church Missionary Society (CMS) opened a teacher training college at Fourah Bay in Freetown, the first institution of higher education in West Africa. In 1845 it started a secondary school for boys and four years later, one for girls. In 1876 Fourah Bay College was affiliated to Durham University and took on the status of a university college. The first degrees were awarded in 1879.

These were the landmarks of a period of outstanding educational achievement in Sierra Leone. The Creoles, who were its main beneficiaries, formed the vanguard of a new professional class in West Africa and were in demand as administrators throughout British territories in that area. Freetown came to be known as the "Sierra Leone of the West Indies". Much water has flowed under the bridge since the heyday of Creole civilisation. Today the successes of that age appear more a burden than a source of inspiration.

A professor in Freetown spoke of the "terrible heritage of Durham" and said at Sierra Leone, in resting its laurels, had allowed itself to be outstripped by Ghana and Nigeria.

In referring to Durham the professor was acknowledging the inadequacy of the educational system in meeting Sierra Leone's needs since independence in 1961 there has been greater emphasis on science, technical training and agriculture, but the curriculum still largely reflects the thinking of colonial days.

The Government is aware of these shortcomings and has undertaken a review of the educational spectrum, from nursery school to post-graduate work, in conjunction with the University of Sierra Leone. This is the first time that a comprehensive study has been made in the country. It is hoped that the findings will lead to the creation of an integrated system of education which will last Sierra Leone for the rest of this century.

Although publication of the review is not expected until later this year it is not difficult to predict its main areas of concern. Formal education in Sierra Leone reaches fewer than half of the children of school age and more than 80 per cent of the population are illiterate. Even the figures for those attending school (181,000 at primary level, 8,000 at secondary) give a bleakly optimistic picture because of the high drop-out rate. A report published in 1970 estimated that 56 per cent of primary and 45 per cent of secondary pupils did not complete the course.

As far as the concept of education is concerned, it is felt that to see one stage of schooling solely as preparation for the next stage is wrong. It means that pupils who do not make the grade are likely to have difficulty in finding jobs because their education has been entirely academic. According to the 1970 report, 52 per cent of those who complete the seven years at primary school do not go on to secondary school and 83 per cent of those who complete secondary schooling, which lasts from five to seven years, do not enter the university.

It has been suggested that a second educational system could be set up alongside the existing one for those who at present receive no schooling. The two systems would interact from the start and would eventually merge.

At the lowest level the new system would have village nursery centres where children met, played, learnt social cooperation, developed self-expression, received child care and began to read and write. Next there would be community education and training centres with activities which would overlap the primary and secondary strands of the existing system and would be based on practical experience of community development. Finally, adult continuing education centres would overlap the secondary and higher levels of the present system and would concentrate on vocational training.

Another suggestion is for an integrated rural school. In an attempt to get rid of selectivity, the idea of primary and secondary education would give way to that of fundamental education. A first cycle of four years would impart basic intellectual skills enabling pupils either to continue their studies or to pursue their lives in the community. Promotion would be automatic and school attendance compulsory.

The second cycle would be diversified. Courses would last from three months to two years and would be open to children and adults who wanted to specialise in various techniques and branches of knowledge. Employers would contribute to the cost of the school but would also take part in the preparation of courses and in evaluating the results.

The schools would be financed largely by the Government but village committees would contribute in kind to their construction and equipment. Students would spend half their time



Two styles of teaching. Left: in a classroom at the National Diamond Mining Company's senior staffs school, at Yengema. Right: alfresco tuition at a secondary school in Freetown.

turn up, an attitude inherited from the colonial schools—Freetown and the western area are much better served than the interior—to abolish tuition fees and to provide universal education at primary level.

A major obstacle to reaching these goals is lack of money. Sierra Leone already devotes 22 per cent of its budget to education and that proportion is unlikely to rise in the near future. It will therefore have to call on our own resources, such as the loan granted by the International Development Association

to provide vocational training facilities in secondary schools. Another difficulty is that many parents want academic education for their children as the means of securing good jobs in government or industry and look down on technical training.

Then there is the task of persuading the university to give a greater lead in developing rural life. Critics say that the position of Fourah Bay College on Mount Aureol above Freetown has a symbolic significance; the students and teaching staff are intellectually isolated from the rest of the country as a whole. The college at Njala, the other campus of the formal educational system, is for girls who had failed to make the grade in the formal educational system. Pupils undertake a five-year course which trains them in the long vacation.

Miss Shirley Scott-Boyle, the principal, said that not to pass exams but as one staff member put it bluntly: "for the market".

After three years of pre-vocational training during the past five years. Once the following choice of specialisation for the final two schools begins for pupils: business studies; creative studies (embroidery, arts and crafts, knitting, fashion; cooking and nutrition; and retail studies (salesmanship, window display). At the end of the fourth year they take jobs in their subject during the long vacation.

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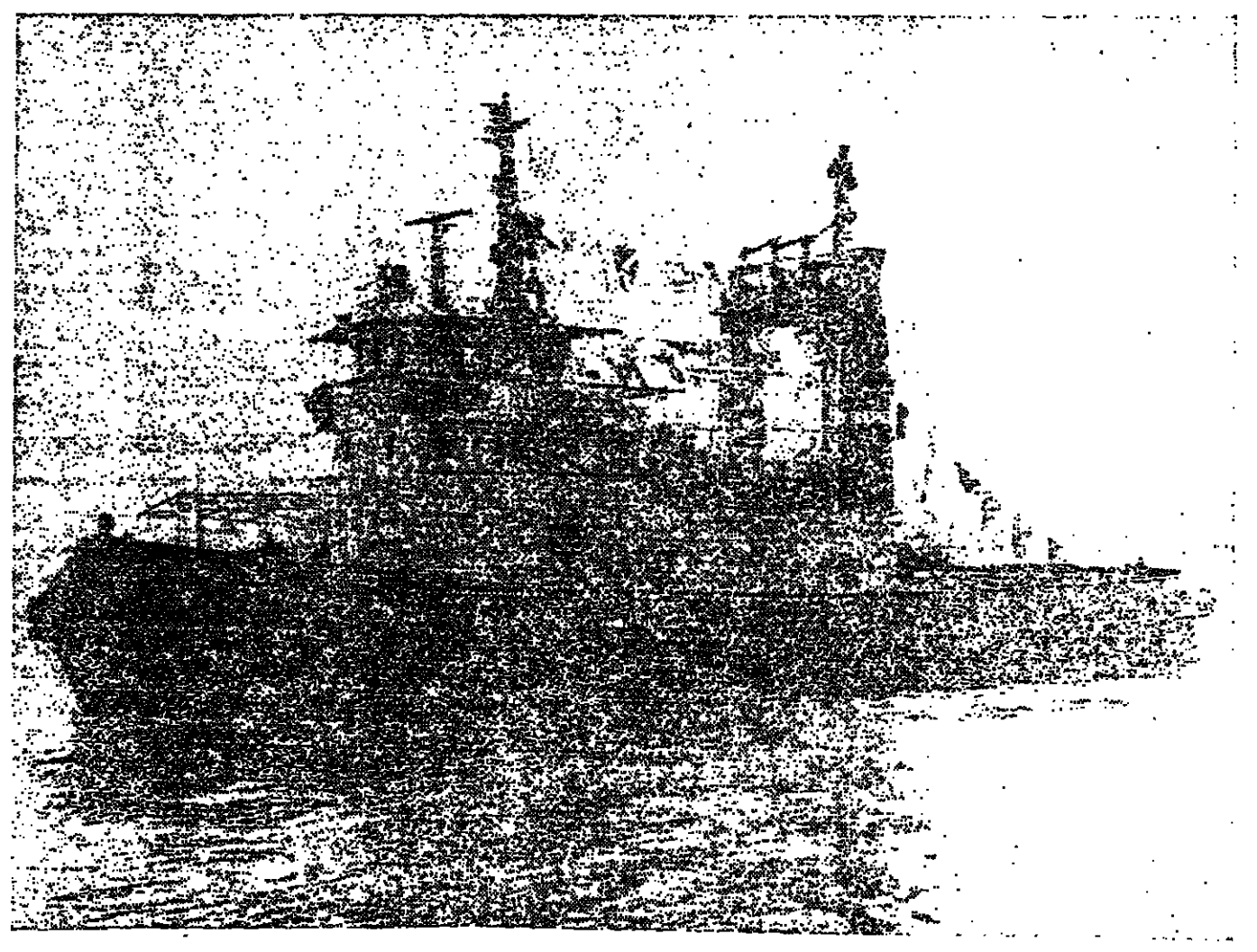
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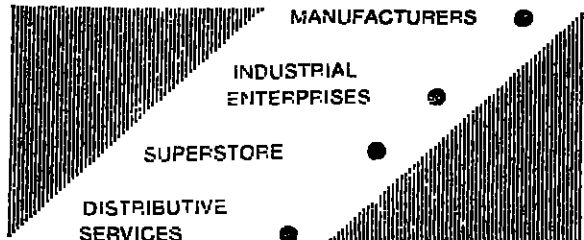


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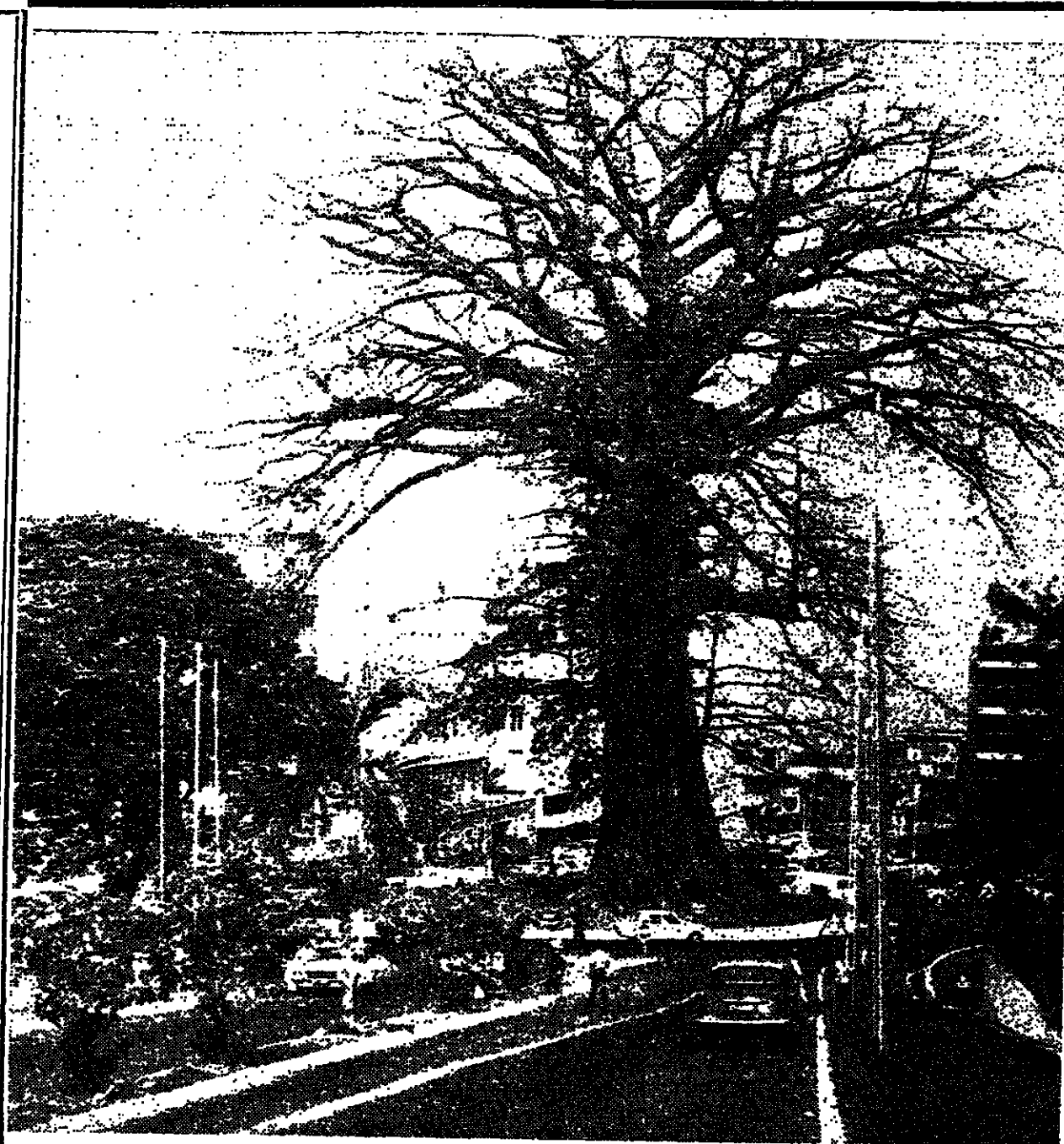
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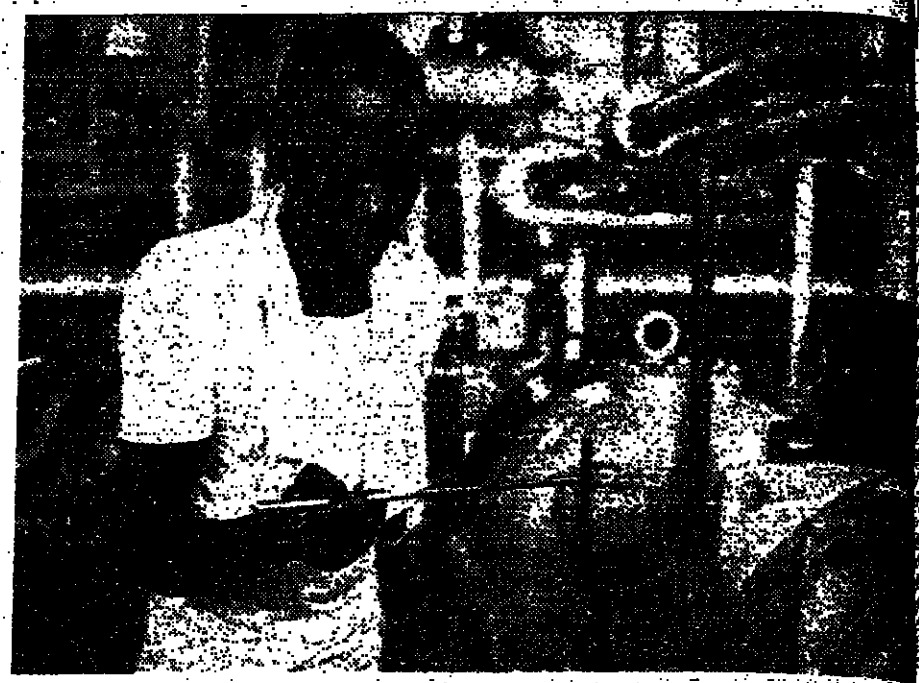


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A cotton tree in the centre of Freetown. Right: a dancer of the Karkadevil secret society. Top: the engine room at a power station in Freetown.



Literary amateurs build reputation largely through non-fiction

by Eldred Durosini Jones

Sierra Leone has had a long tradition of writing in English but much of this has been of non-fictional works. Africanus Beale Horton's *Medical Topography of the West Coast of Africa*, *Physical and Medical Climate and Meteorology of the West Coast of Africa*, *West African Countries and Peoples* and *A Vindication of the African Race*, all published in the late 1860s, indicated the general trend that later writing was to follow.

Davidson Nicol, a Sierra Leonean writer of this generation, and also a doctor, has edited an anthology of Horton's work. The 1860s also saw the appearance of A. B. C. Sirthorpe's pioneering *Geography and History of Sierra Leone*.

The line of non-fictional writers stretches down to more recent times with works such as T. S. Johnson's *Story of a Mission* (a history of the Sierra Leone church), Arthur Porter's *Creoleland*, Davidson Nicol's *Africa: A Subjective View*, William Conton's *History of West Africa*, Bankole Timothy's *Kwame Nkrumah*, E. L. Sumner's *History of Education in Sierra Leone*, and Harry Sawyer's (with W. T. Harris) *Springs of Mende Belief and Custom*.

started in the 1950s, Sierra Leone is, however, rather thinly represented. There is something puzzling in this. The suggestion that Freetown, which led the country in the acquisition of western education and a world language, is too culturally mixed to produce a literary tradition is belied by the output of the West Indian islands with their much more exotic racial and cultural mixtures.

In any case the rest of the country has had the resources of a world language for as long as many other areas in Africa which have produced fiction. Is there something relevant in the fact that most of the fiction has been written while the authors were abroad? (Only Raymond Easmon writes consistently from within the country.)

Again there is no special reason why this should have been so. Interestingly, one of the leading critical journals devoted to African literature, *African Literature Today*, is edited from Sierra Leone, while critical examinations of the Africa novel (Eustace Palmer) and of the writing of Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian playwright, have recently been written by Sierra Leoneans.

fiction, but those early stories exhibit a careful observation of various aspects of life in the colonial era and an equally careful prose style full of subtle ironies, quiet humour and more than a hint of social satire. They show, in settings as varied as secondary schools, elite households, outposts of government and humble urban domestic hearths, how the Victorian missionary morality combined to produce reberberations, inhibitions and tensions so that an African judge's starchiness and preoccupation with the pursuit of a knighthood lead to his son's suicide in "The Judge's Son".

The judge's satisfaction at the achievement of his dream is ironically paralleled by that of the English district commissioner in "The Leopard Hunt". So far, for what it is worth, did colonialism produce common goals for white and black.

Raymond Sarif Easmon (his surname in West Africa always carries a whiff of medicine) is perhaps better known for his plays, two of which have been published—*Dear Parent and Dear*, which won the Independence Play Writing Award in 1961, and *The New Patriots*, which won the Sierra Leone National Theatre Award a few years later. The latter was first performed in Nigeria with Wole Soyinka playing the lead, it being thought too hot to handle in Sierra Leone at the time. Its attack on political corruption was just as topical in Nigeria. Another play, *Dear Dillys*, has never been performed but remains unpublished.

All these plays deal with topical political and social questions and bristle with fierce satire. Easmon's only published novel, *The Burnt Out Marriage*, is just one being thought too hot to handle in Sierra Leone at the time. Its attack on political corruption was just as topical in Nigeria. Another play, *Dear Dillys*, has never been performed but remains unpublished.

Many years ago Wellesley-Cole wrote a Krio vignette, "A lek you for you bo-jew", which showed the potentialities of Krio as a literary medium, but he does not seem to have followed up this essay into Krio poetry. For that one must turn to

the work of Gladys Casely Hayford and Thomas Decker as pioneers. Gladys Casely Hayford wrote poetry in both English and Krio, but by far her best national figure and a dominant voice in Sierra Leone's recent and sometimes troubled history. Her prose style has an almost Edwardian flavour and his plots make no concessions to modish narrative techniques. His descriptions of people and places are often elaborate and carefully constructed. He is possibly the most dedicated of the present Sierra Leonean writers, considering the amount of time he has spent writing, but he is also probably the most unlucky with publishers.

William Conton's *The African* (1959) was fairly early in the spate of African novels and was one of the earliest expressions of the African political dream. Its about to be published as a book.

Thomas Decker, particularly when he was on the staff of the *Daily Guardian*, waged a spirited campaign for the use of Krio as a literary medium and proved his point by making translations of the Bible and Shakespeare, while also writing some original poetry. His most ambitious venture is his Krio translation of *Julius Caesar* with which the National Drama League celebrated the first anniversary of independence and which brought Shakespeare to the first time to the notice of the unschooled Sierra Leoneans.

All in all, Sierra Leoneans do not seem to have trusted their reputation to fiction. As literary amateurs, the word is used in the best sense, they have shown talent, but the country's first successful professional writer is yet to come. If there were local outlets where budding writers could first try out their skills (as there is, say, Nigeria) he might say the sooner.

The author is Professor, Head of the Department of English, Fourah Bay College, Freetown. He is Visiting Commonwealth Professor at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

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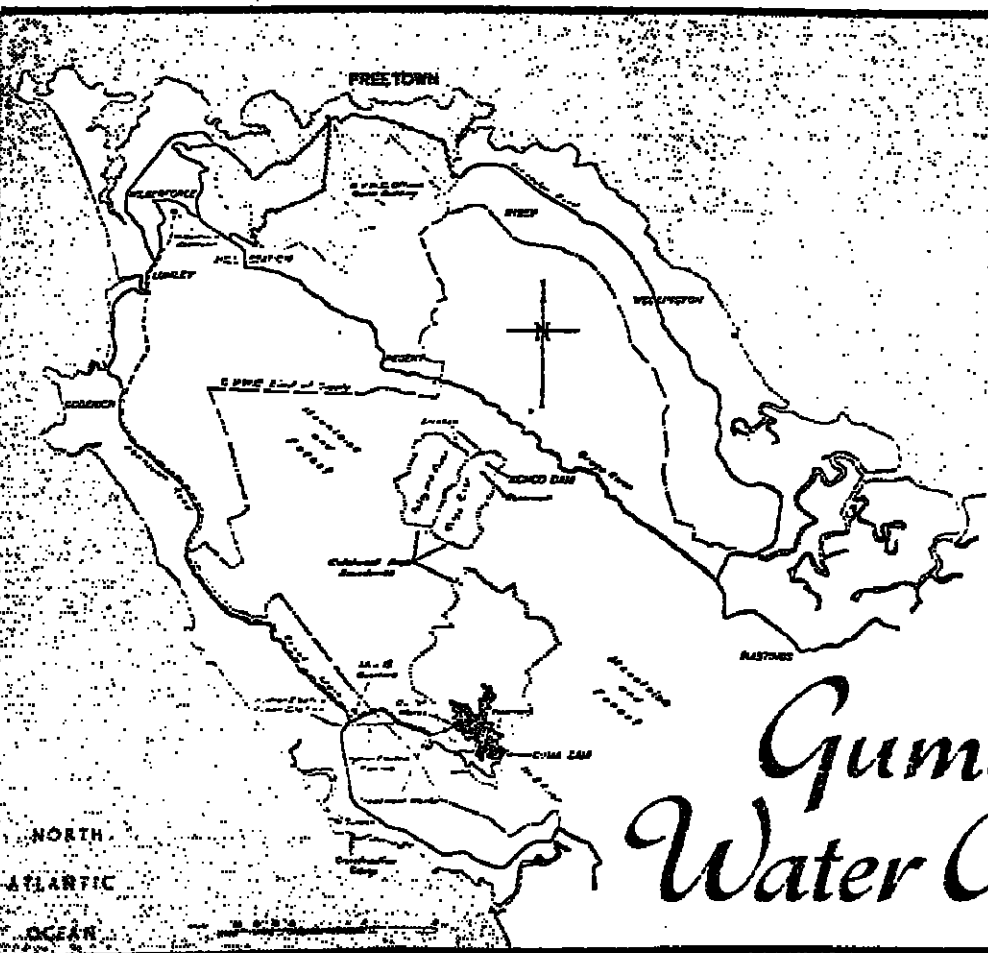
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Vildlife is still present—but you have to search for it

Cooffrey Field

Sierra Leone straddles two vegetation zones, the Guinea savanna and the forest, and the zoological divide lies in the north-west corner of Africa, the end of a corridor of land between desert seas, it is inevitably poorer in species, particularly large mammals, than East Africa.

The relatively dense human population means less suitable animal habitat. Some of the typically African mammals are absent, but they have to be searched for. Elephants have been exceptional wanderers in the north all this century, and leopards, once widespread, are now an object of interest. When elephants are found in the north-west, they are in the dry forest, and in the remotest parts of the east. Buffaloes are called bushcows) are widespread, but hunters say the size of the herds has declined by anything up to 50 per cent over the past 30 years, and waterbuck, a rarer class, show a similar decline.

Kobs are now confined to a northern area, but bush-cows are common and so are the smaller duikers. Rhinos are found in the north and red river hogs in the south. Baboon troops frequent the mountains and reter savanna woodlands, but the large red patas monkey can be a menace to peasant crops.

Standing for meat is regulated throughout the country, though non-hunting reserves have been established under the authority of the Forestry Department there is little money to provide supervision to make these effective.

Meanwhile there is a steady drain on the larger species.

As with mammals, so there are few concentrations of large and spectacular birds. Vultures are found occasionally in the north but only big savanna raptors are widespread in the mountains and it is confined to mountainous areas. Some water swamps and river-ouths hold flocks of waterfowl: pelicans, spoonbills, masses of herons, red ibises and the large clumsy spurwing geese. A pygmy goose, smaller than a teal, inhabits lily-ered ponds and the white-ed tree-duck is abundant; few European ducks exist, scattered garganey, which Sierra Leone, though flocks of European ducks winter along the rivers in the swamps. As the rivers run low at the end of the dry season the

sandbanks are used for nesting by plovers, pratincoles and skimmers, large tern-like birds which feed by skimming the surface of the water, the lower mandible immersed. The rivers also hold manatees, those strange, entirely aquatic mammals which are decreasing rapidly because of their highly prized meat. Crocodiles are found both in the mangrove mud and inland swamps but they are usually despoiled as victims when possible by the local river bank inhabitants. Monitor lizards are also common along rivers; when unmolested they are capable of growing to enormous size but they, too, are regularly taken for food.

The savanna may be less interesting than the savanna of East Africa but the forest is what attracts the zoologist. Inevitably the area of true high forest is shrinking as more and more is opened up for commercial small development. The forest stretched across the entire southern half of Sierra Leone before the great era of destruction, the early years of the nineteenth century. Now only fragments remain, and the various conservation bodies of the wealthier countries might consider, if they want the botanical and zoological riches of the forest preserved, what they can contribute to compensate for the loss of immediate revenue implied by conservation.

The oldest and wildest forests are in the south and east near the Liberian border, but Freetown itself has on its doorstep a range of forested hills which, despite illegal hunting, still possess many of the smaller forest mammals and a wealth of birds.

The most interesting mammal is the pygmy hippopotamus, confined to forest rivers in West Africa, an endangered Red Book species, whose range is already split into pockets by the building of roads and the taking over of forests for agriculture. It lives solitarily and is less aquatic than the common hippopotamus, quickly disappearing into dense vegetation and so difficult to observe.

Another endemic to the West African forests is the royal antelope, only 16in high, probably fairly common in some areas but rarely seen because of its smallness and nocturnal habits. The largest forest antelope is the bongo, fit high, chequered striped with white. Its status is difficult to determine but in some forests where it was formerly reported not even

the hunters seem to know it and it is probably extremely rare.

Chimpanzees have adapted themselves better to forest destruction and though their tree-drumming may be heard in deep forest they are more often seen in secondary forest or farm bush. For such large animals they survive remarkably well, but even so the traffic in chimpanzees to zoos takes its toll, as for almost every baby captured the mother has to be killed.

Several monkeys are abundant; though the green monkey of farm bush is a nuisance to farmers, most of the finer species are confined to high forest and do not compete with man for food. These include the diana monkey, beautifully coloured in black, white and red, with a pointed white beard, and the three colobus (or chumblers) species that feed mainly on young leaves

and white with bare yellow head and black "earphones". It has a long tail and long, strong legs on which it bounds over the rocks on the forest floor. It sounds grotesque but is, in fact, extraordinarily elegant. Its nesting habits, too, are peculiar: it builds an open mud cup against an overhanging rock. Confined to forest between Sierra Leone and Ghana, it is vulnerable to forest destruction and, though theoretically protected, is exploited by unscrupulous zoos and egg collectors.

Butterflies are one of the forest delights, especially along streams where the canopy is broken and sunlight can penetrate. Human urine here will attract scores of lycaenids and swallowtails and the air, when they are disturbed, becomes a dancing mass of blues, greens and yellows.

The largest West African butterfly is a swallowtail, *Papilio antiochus*, nearly 10in across, rare but occasionally descending from the treetops to drink at a muddy puddle on a logging trail. Also large and brilliant are members of the genus *Charaxes*, that have been given the exotic names of Roman gods or heroes, *castor*, *pollux*, *hadrianus*, *brutus*, *isidoreus*, and others. Though swift-flying they can be studied as they feed on the decaying juices of rotten fruit or animal matter.

As well as all these there are vast numbers of insects, reptiles, amphibians, and so on, many still unknown. I know of one bird undescribed and there could even be small mammals. The forest provides inexhaustible scope for anyone interested in wildlife, be the casual tourist or serious student. But undisturbed forest may remain much longer.

in the canopy, the largest being the black and white colobus, handsome with long, pure white tail.

Forest birds are almost entirely different from those found outside. There are numerous small insectivorous species of the undergrowth, thrushes, babblers, bulbuls, flycatchers, and so on; some are strikingly beautiful, such as the large bush shrike in crimson, yellow and green or the trogons, also red and green. There are huge hornbills with absurd casques above their beaks, the swish of whose wing-beats can be heard far over the forest, and the most magnificent forest bird, the crowned hawk-eagle, which hunts by peering down from the canopy and plunging on to the forest floor.

Stranger of all is the bare-headed rockfowl or picarheta, of uncertain affinities but probably related to the babbler. It is cross-sized, grey

and white with bare yellow head and black "earphones". It has a long tail and long, strong legs on which it bounds over the rocks on the forest floor. It sounds grotesque but is, in fact, extraordinarily elegant. Its nesting habits, too, are peculiar: it builds an open mud cup against an overhanging rock. Confined to forest between Sierra Leone and Ghana, it is vulnerable to forest destruction and, though theoretically protected, is exploited by unscrupulous zoos and egg collectors.

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Up country in Sierra Leone: alluvial diamond mining at Kenema, Eastern Province. Right: dyed cotton drying at Makeni, Northern Province.

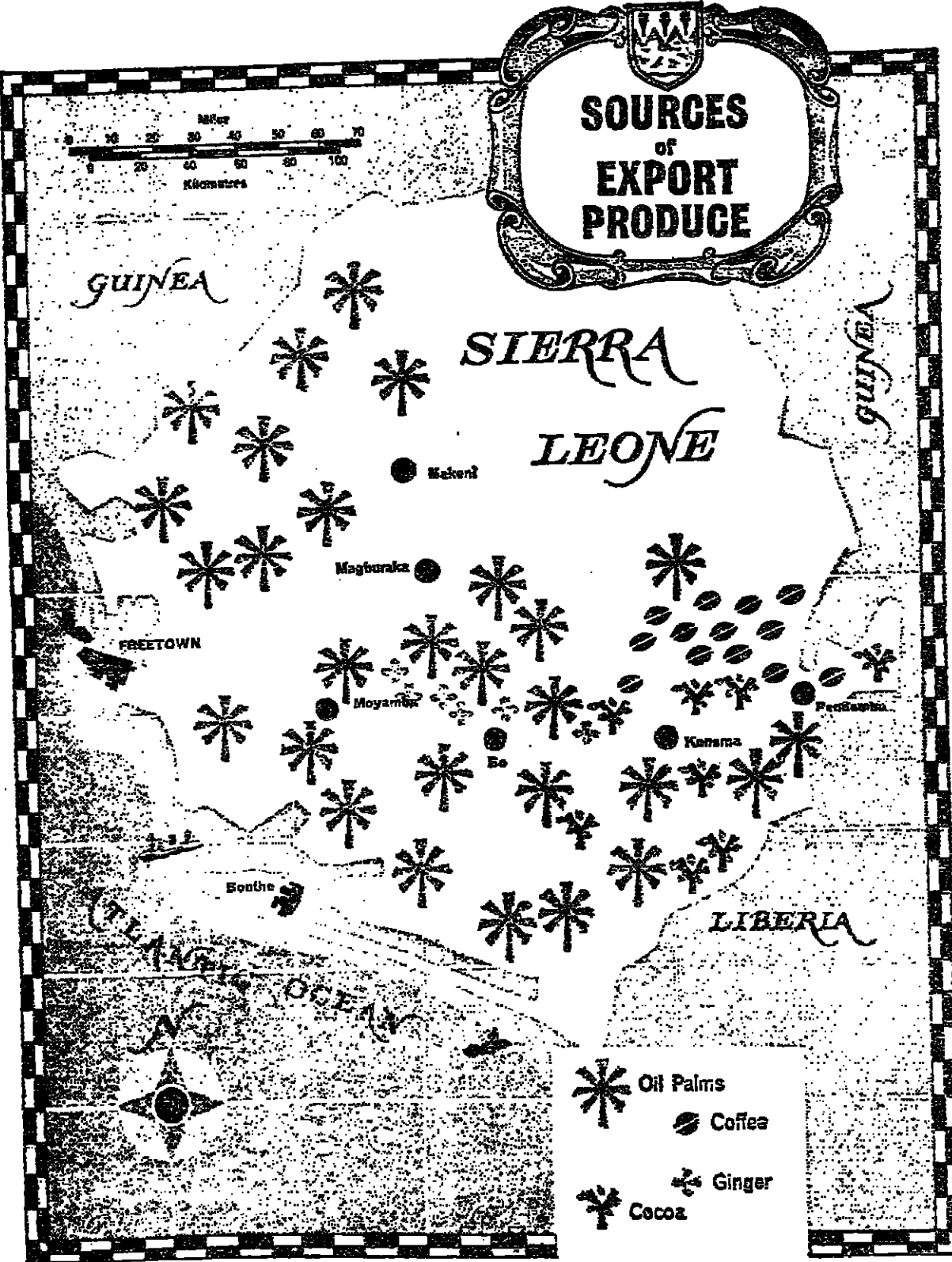


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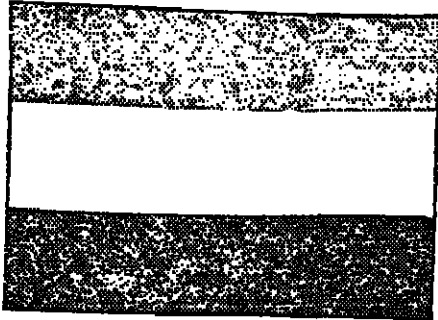


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Sierra Leone

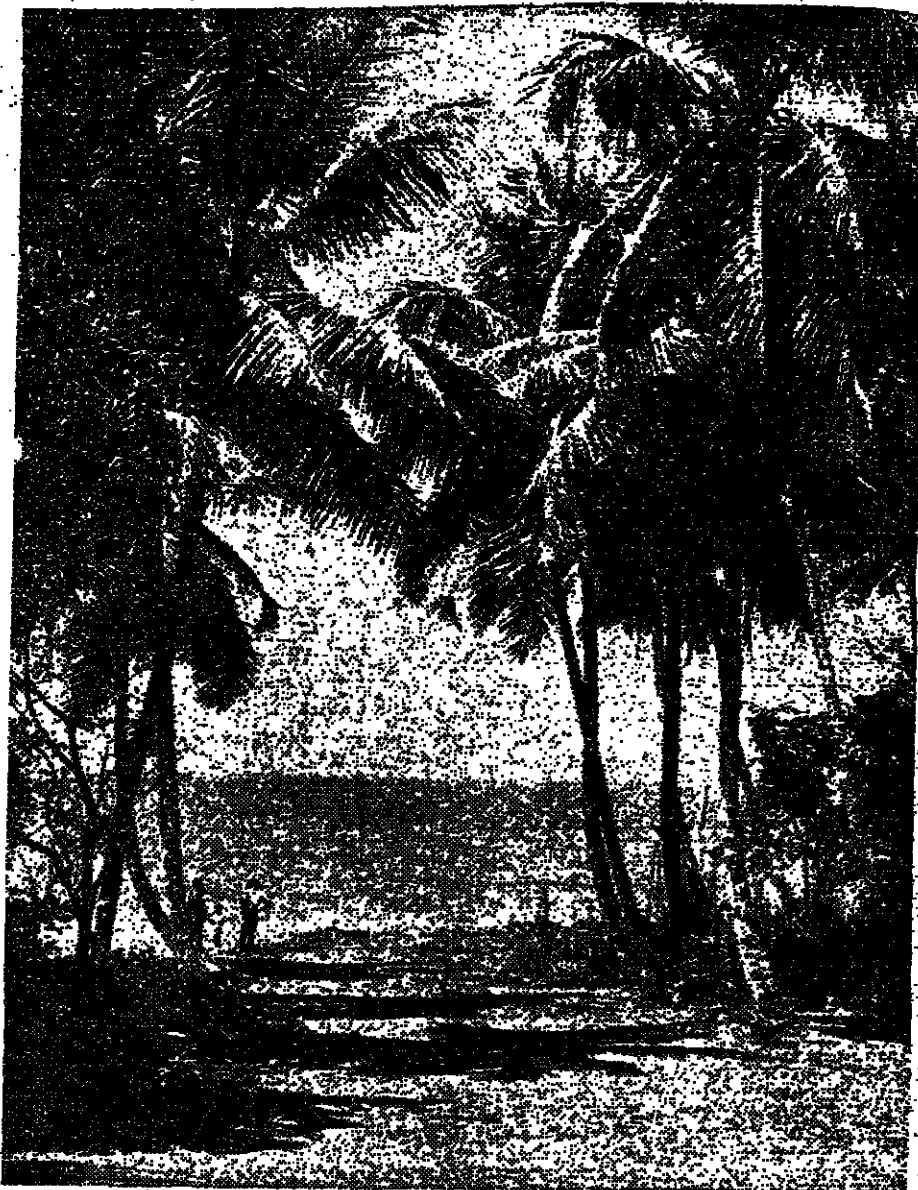
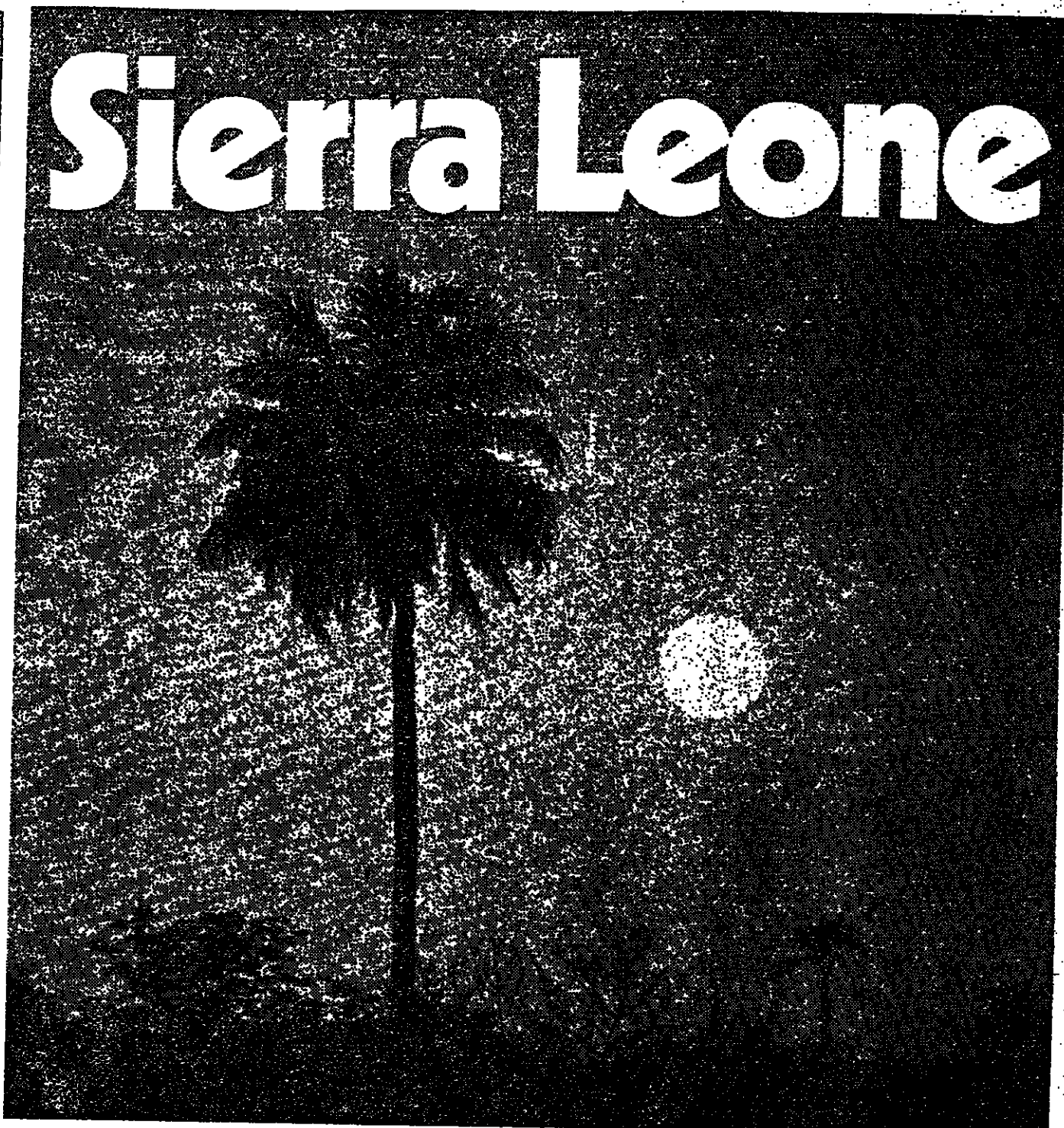
Sierra Leone, the 'mountains of the lion'—so named by early European visitors—is located on Africa's western bulge. The capital of Freetown, a gay, vivacious city and seaport, is situated on a peninsula, 35 miles long and 10 miles wide. The interior of the peninsula is mountainous, rising in parts to over 3,000 feet above sea level.

Lumley Beach, a magnificent palm fringed sweep, is fifteen minutes from Freetown. Freetown Golf Club (18 holes) is located here as well as a number of beach clubs where drinks and refreshments are to hand. Along the thirty mile chain of beaches from Lumley (Cape Sierra Hotel) to Kent there are plenty of opportunities for sailing and surfing enthusiasts, for diving and spear fishing as well as good deep sea fishing facilities.

One of the oldest cities in West Africa, Freetown was founded in 1787 and enjoys a long and distinguished civic and cultural tradition. Sandwiched between the dark green hills of the peninsula and a deep blue sea, the city contains many important buildings and landmarks of historical interest. These include the De Ruyter stone, set up by the Dutch admiral in pursuit of the British in 1664. Other important buildings include the bastions of Fort Thornton constructed between 1792 and 1803 and the old Maroon Church erected in 1820. Freetown also has a small but important museum displaying artifacts and other objects of ethnographic or archaeological interest, particularly the ancient 'Nomoli' or soap stone carvings of human and other figures which have been unearthed in the present Bullom, Mende and Kono country. Also of interest to visitors is the variety of indigenous arts and crafts of a high standard of workmanship. These can be seen at the Arts and Crafts Centre in Freetown and are on sale at a number of craft and curio shops.

Across the river from Freetown, the tourist can visit historic Bunce Island, once a fortress for keeping slaves before despatching them to the 'New World'. Off Banana Island there are little explored wrecks of trading ships which date back to the 17th century.

In Freetown old wooden framed 18th century houses exist side by side with the ultra-modern buildings of an economy based largely on diamonds and iron ore. Readers of Graham Greene will still find the City Hotel he pictured in 'The Heart of the Matter'. Much else, though, has been caught up in a whirlwind of change that lends colour and variety to this unique West African city. The famous 300-year-old landmark, the Cotton Tree, still stands at the centre of the city. It is a city that now brings together people from the entire country and is an expanding, sophisticated and friendly society.

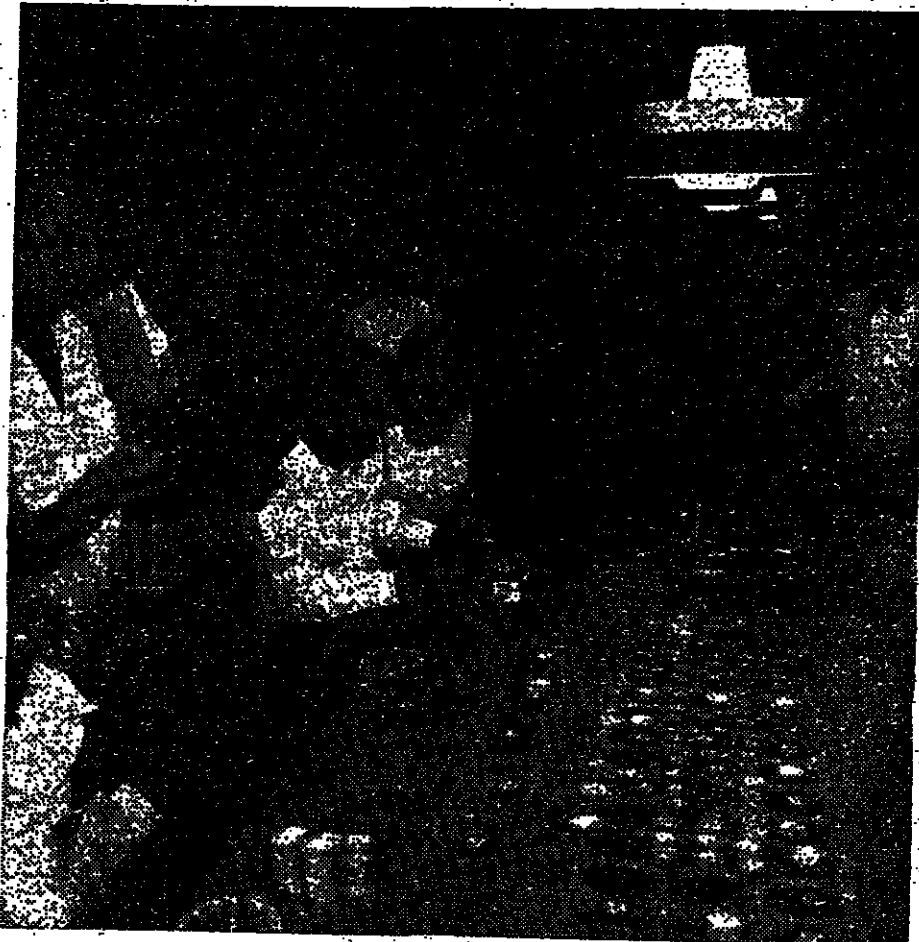


Nature has been kind to Sierra Leone—beautiful beaches, blue lagoons, an endless panorama of rolling hills and forests. Along the shores of the peninsula—and easily accessible by good tarmac roads from Freetown—are some thirty miles of white sand, palm fringed beaches, totally unspoilt and totally inviting for the holiday or business visitor alike.



His Excellency The President, Dr Siaka P. Stevens, inspecting a parade mounted by the Republic's armed forces.

Undiscovered tourist paradise



When in Freetown it will be well worthwhile visiting the Casino situated at the end of Lumley Beach road, Cape Sierra point. Centrally air-conditioned, the Casino has recently been refurbished and now offers a first class restaurant as well. Photos: A. Walsamis



Drummers of the well known Sierra Leone National Dance Troupe. The Troupe gives regular performances of authentic folk dances based on Sierra Leone's rich dance culture and has distinguished itself internationally in Africa, Europe, North and South America.

RESTAURANTS AND NIGHT LIFE

In addition to the restaurants at the leading hotels, Freetown is well served by a variety of restaurants, clubs and night spots offering a wide range of European, African, Oriental and Lebanese dishes. The visitor should not hesitate to try the local seafood, especially lobsters, as well as (perhaps for the first time!) such typical African specialities as Jollof Rice, Palaver Sauce, Pepper Chicken and so on. Palaver sauce, for example, is made from a chicken or fish casserole with seasoned rice and the leaves of the cassava. Imported or local cigarettes and drinks are not expensive and the local brewed beers and stout are an excellent thirst quencher at the end of a warm tropical day.



Attractive carvings, cloth and other handicrafts are popular 'bays' with visitors. Like that of our little friend below a smile will greet the visitor wherever he or she goes. Sierra Leoneans are by nature cheerful and relaxed people and the visitor will quickly be made to feel 'at home'.



Freetown is an expanding city and has one of the finest natural harbours in West Africa. Queen Elizabeth II Quay, recently extended, can now accommodate six ocean going vessels.



For further information about Sierra Leone please contact the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone.

Your favourite travel agent will be able to give you details of remarkably good value all-inclusive tours to Sierra Leone.

Information can also be had from Sierra Leone Embassies in Bonn, Moscow, Rome and Washington. The Sierra Leone High Commission in London is at 33 Portland Place, London W1N 3AG. Tel. 01-636 6483.



NO CERTAINTIES IN POLITICS

The London Borough results are not good news for the Labour Party or for the Liberals. It was generally accepted that the Labour lead shown in recent public opinion polls could be expected to produce a good result in London. That it has not done so suggests that public opinion is still in the state of uncertainty that existed at the general election. Therefore the Government could not rely on winning an early election if one were to be called.

There can be much debate about the reasons for the moderate Conservative success; as the poll was small it must also be questioned whether it was fully representative. The most likely explanation is that Conservative voters, including those who had drifted away to the Liberals, are already alarmed by the fact and the attitudes of a Labour Government. In common conversation one finds that it is Mr Healey who has done the damage, rather than the rash of allegations and exculpations. Just as the Industrial Relations Act alarmed trade unionists after 1970 so Mr Healey's budget has alarmed Conservative voters. They feel that it is an attack on them, and describe it as vindictive, an example of class politics, and so on.

Opinion in the polling booth has usually changed much more slowly than opinion in the opinion polls. The Conservative lead over Labour dropped from 3.4 per cent to 0.9 per cent of the popular

vote between the elections of 1970 and 1974, not a big decline in three and a half years. In deciding on his election timing Mr Wilson must be conscious of the risk that he might have another evenly split result in any election held in 1974. Another Parliament of minorities would be unlikely to result in the continuation of a Labour Government.

In their first weeks the new Government have in fact behaved as though they were expecting a very early election. In the first month they fired off a great deal of valuable ammunition, and also showed considerable skill in handling their situation. The economic outlook is exceptionally difficult to read, but it is quite certain that prices will continue to rise. It is hard to see how any government will remain popular at this stage of a great world inflation, particularly if they have no convincing general plan for dealing with it.

The Conservative Party would still prefer to avoid an early election. From their point of view every month of Labour government takes the Labour Party further away from the period of honeymoon, from the period of the wedding presents and into the period of paying the bills. So far the Government have enjoyed a strong parliamentary position, based on the belief that they would certainly win an early general election. The more

doubtful that expectation becomes the more even the parliamentary situation will be. This does not mean that the Conservatives are likely to want to defeat the Government on major matters or to vote them down on second readings of their Bills. Yet it does mean that the Conservatives and Liberals can amend the Finance Bill; provided they do so in a responsible and constructive way such action could well be popular. The chief problem of the Conservatives is to develop a policy which shall both be different from their last election manifesto (which they cannot simply repeat) and yet show continuity with it.

In the meantime the Government seem to suffer from a lack of personal cohesion. Mr Wilson is much more remote than he was in his previous administration and is delegating very freely to his Ministers. The Ministers themselves relish this freedom in the conduct of their own departments but do not show any loyal unanimity in discussing each other's policies. Compared to previous administrations the Cabinet seems more like twenty-one governments than like a single government, and the twenty-one governments do not even seem on the best of terms. In the House of Commons this lack of cohesion is partly compensated for by the experience and ability of some of the leading Ministers, though Labour is very weak on its front bench in the House of Lords.

SELF HELP v MUTUAL HELP IN EUROPE

It is not so much what they did, as the way they did it, which is so disturbing about the Italian Government's import surcharge. The need for emergency action to control the surge in imports into Italy is obvious enough. The economy has been overheating badly, partly due to the rapid rate of industrial expansion, partly as a consequence of rising raw materials costs. The resultant fall in Italian monetary reserves has been alarming, and remedial action was overdue.

All the same, the suddenness of the imports surcharge, in the form of a 50 per cent deposit on non-essential goods, came as a shock. Signor Colombo, the Italian Minister of the Treasury, is one of the most experienced and capable ministers in the European Community; in more than one crisis, he has lent a steady hand to the Community's troubled affairs. Like-wise Signor Carli, Governor of the Bank of Italy, is among the most admired of central bankers, on the closest terms with his colleagues. Did they have to act so precipitately?

The answer seems to be that at times of financial crisis, governments always prefer to take decisions quickly, as if turning on a switch, rather than risk the delays and complications of international consultation and co-

operation. This has, unfortunately, all too often been the pattern in the European Community. After the event, the offending Government then dispatches a senior minister to Brussels to explain why they have done those things which they ought not to have done, and trust that approval is granted by the Commission and their other partners.

In the present run-down state of the Community, such nationalistic attitudes are understandable enough, and it might seem vain to expect otherwise. Certainly it is not fair to single out the Italians as the only ones to blame. What puts the present incident in rather darker perspective, however, is the looming sense of economic breakdown—evident in industrial countries generally. The rising cost of oil and other commodities, the accelerating rate of inflation, the social strains that result, are the common experience. If it becomes accepted practice to seek a way out in old-fashioned national remedies like import surcharges (such as Britain introduced under the Labour Government a decade ago) the international economic outlook can only deteriorate.

For this reason, the Community ought to try to make a stand this time, to prevent worse following. Indeed, the fear that Britain

might copy the Italian example swept through the corridors of the Council of Ministers so fast that the Government was obliged to deny it had any such intention. While every country seeks its salvation by increasing exports, none can benefit by restrictions on trade.

In this case, it is open to doubt if the Italians were well advised in selecting article 109 of the Rome Treaty, rather than 108, as cover for their action. The former states that where a member state faces a sudden crisis in its balance of payments it may, as a precaution, take the necessary protective measures. "Such measures must cause the least possible disturbance in the functioning of the Common Market and must not be wider in scope than is strictly necessary to remedy the sudden difficulties which have arisen." Article 108, by contrast, is much more communitarian and is, potentially, one of the most important in the treaty. It envisages "mutual assistance" by the member states of the Community, on the recommendation of the Commission, to help bail out a country in trouble. This is surely the more constructive approach; at least an attempt should be made to apply it as a way of helping Italy out of her present difficulties.

CHILDISH AND RIDICULOUS CONDUCT

It appears that the engineering union is inflexibly set on creating a legend. Its boycott of the Industrial Relations Court, which quite predictably led to yesterday's order of the court requiring the seizure of all its funds (apart from the superannuation fund) has now reached a point far beyond where it can serve any rational ends. From the point of view of a committed opponent of the Act, the boycott could be said to have had a crude political value while the Conservatives were in office. If the half-dozen cases in which the law came down heavily on unions or individual unionists had not been kept in the headlines, the hundreds of cases where the court succeeded in conciliation or in making judgments that were manifestly neither oppressive nor biased might in time have undermined the bold simplicity of the campaign for repeal.

Some of the cases that gained so much publicity indicated real defects in the Act, arising in particular from the failure of those who drafted it to visualize how it would work if most unions resisted the bait and nudges that incorporated to encourage them

to register. But where the AUEW was involved there was no question of detailed flaws revealing themselves—the cases never got that far. In effect, the union simply denied the constitutional basis of the court and made no attempt to defend itself. There was nothing distinctive about the court's response, except perhaps in the care it showed at every stage to give the union another chance to reconsider its position. No court on earth could have reacted differently; if anyone called to plead is free to do so or not as he wills, then the courts would be besieged by plaintiffs deprived of all hope of recompense, and there would not be a defendant in sight.

In fact the union had a strong defence in the present instance, if it had cared to use it. The complaint came from a small firm, Con-Mech, after a strike over the company's refusal to recognize the AUEW as sole negotiating agent for the fifty manual workers at the factory. There is dispute over the details, but other decisions of the court suggest that the union would very probably have gained its point. Certainly the inflexible attitude

of the management brought strong censure from the court in an earlier judgment. But as the union did not appear, the firm won its case, and later its claim for compensation too.

It is easy to understand why the union should have been at pains to avoid the embarrassment of winning. But the only thing it can hope to achieve now by maintaining its boycott is the childish satisfaction of never having given in. The abolition of the court and the Act are already promised, by a Government precariously in office whose prospects can only be weakened by displays of irrational and irresponsible unionism. The interests of the AUEW's membership are bound to be greatly damaged by the seizure of its assets, particularly if its leaders now reject the court's call to come forward and claim those funds that they regard as "protected" under the Act. It is not only its own nose that the union is cutting off; far from rubbing in the lesson that the Industrial Relations Act was unnecessary, its obstinacy can only tend to revive the question of whether the unions can be left to administer their affairs without some form of legal regulation.

Development aid

From Professor M. Lipton and Professor H. W. Singer
Sir Nicholas Ashford's article, "Britain seeks a better deal for poor countries" (April 30), contains valuable information on a topic where reality has damaged the efficiency of British and other European aid and trade. The EEC secretariat in Brussels is largely isolated from pressures towards trade liberalization and aid expansion. For instance, many senior officials are unaware of the work of the House of Commons Select Committee on Development which has been concentrating on EEC policy towards poor countries. Conversely, when the Commission proposes ambitious development measures—such as the recent "Cheysson Plan" for 1500m. of extra EEC aid in 1974, as part of a world plan to compensate for 25 poor countries worst hit by oil price rises—the European press and parliament are largely unaware of the Commission's from inefficient European firms against low-cost imports; from Finance Ministers, against aid

from the French, towards the misdirection of such limited aid and trade benefits as do flow to poor nations. A very senior EEC official recently told one of us: "If only we heard as much from liberalizing pressure groups about the entire Third World as we do about Greece, our development policy would be much better."

Two of Mr Ashford's points, however, seem doubtful. First, one should not restrict food aid to disaster situations. It can, for example, be used as pay for work on agricultural development schemes; or it can provide an insurance, permitting a government to take otherwise unacceptable risks in search of high-yielding development projects. The pitfalls, especially the abuse of food aid to depress price incentives to farmers, are increasingly well understood, after 10 years of the United Nations World Food Programme. Food aid is a major item on the agenda of the autumn's United Nations World Food Conference, for the excellent reason that courageous development planning—with harvest risks and food prices both high—requires planned insur-

ance, not just tardy and unsure disaster relief.

Second, EDF aid is (as you state) misdirected, but not only because some recipients (notably those with big French investments) are not very poor; and not only because "non-associables" are unwarrantably left out. Even within EDF beneficiaries, the richer you are, the more aid you get. The desperately poor victims of drought in Niger, Mali and Chad have received much less than the employees of French concerns in the Ivory Coast, Gabon and Senegal.

On development policy, as on much else, the United Kingdom "anti-EEC lobby" fights the wrong enemy. The Brussels bureaucrats are much more responsive to the needs of poor people than the national pressure groups, but are too weak to deal with them.

Yours truly,
M. LIPTON,
H. W. SINGER,
Institute of Development Studies,
Andrew Cohen Building,
Falmer,
Brighton,
April 30.

Should Britain return to the gold standard?

From Lord Boothby
Sir, Warmest congratulations on your brilliant article about a return to the gold standard (May 1). You over the past few years, but I forbear. In any case, they are all on the record. The main point is that you are absolutely right, and the rest of them—Treasury, bankers, economists, or absolutely wrong—Gold must be restored to its "pre-eminent role" in the international monetary system (I quote Mr Schweitzer). Lenin once said that the best and surest way of destroying the capitalist countries was to debauch their currencies. Under the present fiat system, the consequent raging international inflation, it looks as if his prediction may well come true.

Your obedient servant,
BOOTHBY,
House of Lords,
May 2.

Since then the Arabs have given startling evidence that this is a fact I duty to on giving endless quotations from my speeches and letters over the past few years, but I forbear. In any case, they are all on the record. The main point is that you are absolutely right, and the rest of them—Treasury, bankers, economists, or absolutely wrong—Gold must be restored to its "pre-eminent role" in the international monetary system (I quote Mr Schweitzer). Lenin once said that the best and surest way of destroying the capitalist countries was to debauch their currencies. Under the present fiat system, the consequent raging international inflation, it looks as if his prediction may well come true.

Your obedient servant,
BOOTHBY,
House of Lords,
May 2.

ably settle down at a fairly stable figure between \$100 and \$170/oz. The production of gold, choice of appropriate grades of ore or treatment, and provision of any new capital equipment needed could be organized in an orderly manner.

Incidentally, one reason given by the economists for abandoning gold was that the stocks and annual production rate of gold were insufficient to cover the increasing volume of world trade. But the existing stock of monetary gold today, valued at say \$140/oz would cover a larger percentage of world trade than did the 1930 stock at \$35/oz.

Yours faithfully,
K. G. HODGSON,
Oak End, Tyse Green Village,
Harlow, Essex,
May 1.

From Mr R. E. Davies
Sir, Any British Government proposing a return to the Gold Standard would be faced with a general strike until they had abandoned the idea. Yours truly,
ROBERT DAVIES,
7 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
May 2.

From Mr K. G. Hodgson
Sir, You article about the gold standard is very timely. In abandoning the gold standard we abandoned monetary discipline, replacing it first by the human judgment of individual national governments, and when this proved to be failed because of conflict of interest between nations, by the international judgment of 10 or 20 wise men.

Since all governments have a vested interest in inflation—they call it "the buoyancy of the revenue"—none of these measures has been effective in achieving stability of monetary values. While a full return to the gold standard is politically impossible at the present time, I feel, naively, that some step in that direction is worth considering.

One method would be for the major governments of the world to state firmly that when appropriate they would be prepared to buy or to sell gold at the open market price for their monetary stocks, and to use those stocks as a medium of last resort for the settlement of international debts. This does not involve the establishment of a fixed gold price, even in "weighted currency", and for a period, probably several years, currencies could still float against gold as, in effect, they do now.

Such a move, involving open recognition of an impersonal standard against which the creation of paper credit must be judged, should exercise a beneficial influence in many ways. There may be fears of causing vast unemployment on the 1930 model, but these are probably exaggerated in present conditions. For example:

1. The evil consequences of excessive creation of Government credit would be more readily apparent.
2. The creation of non-Government credit would eventually become less profitable.
3. There would be less incentive to hoard in those countries where the private holding of gold is permitted.
4. The price of gold would prob-

From Mr W. Grey
Sir, To do it justice, your case for a return to the gold standard demands a rejoinder of comparable length. However, I will be brief and pick out three points only.

One of the reasons you adduced for restoring a gold base to the currency is that it would impose "the discipline necessary for a healthy balance of payments". This is necessary enough in all conscience, but gold is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for it. Fixed but adjustable or adjustable but fixed exchange rates do the job equally well.

In fairness, the case against floating currencies is not, or not simply, that they "always tend to be inflationary"; only downward floating currencies have that tendency, and they must necessarily be matched by others which, in relation to them, float upwards. Where floating currencies may, as they do, encourage monetary indiscipline, this again can, and should, be remedied by other means.

For Britain to "have to conduct her economic affairs with the overriding object of maintaining the value of the currency on the foundation of gold would make sense only if other countries agreed to do likewise. Happily or unhappily, there appears to be little chance of this. And a system which is to command confidence, and not fall prey to "speculative" inflation, must be based on more than pious hope.

Yours faithfully,
W. GREY,
12 Arden Road,
Finchley, N3,
May 2.

From Mr Arthur Blenkinsop, Labour MP for South Shields
Sir, We have seen during these past few days a sickening example of attempted bribery and corruption on the part of our most respected members—Ted Short. Twelve years ago Dan Smith was a widely admired political leader in Newcastle, who had achieved great success in building up a major planning and statutory rehousing department on urban redevelopment well ahead of his time.

In our determination to get rid of all forms of corruption—corruption encouraged by our money mad society—we had the advantage of ourselves by setting up a McCarthy type which hunt.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR BLENKINSOP,
House of Commons.

From Mr William Shepherd
Sir, No one will deny the penetrating power of a tribunal under the Tribunals of Evidence Act 1921, the more so if it had the advantage of seeing the superb performance of Lord Shawcross at the Lynskey Tribunal. Neither is it possible to gainsay the increasingly powerful part which the press is playing in exposing corruption. But neither the briber nor the bribed proclaim their infamy from the housetops and evidence sufficient to justify the establishment of a tribunal does not come easily.

My experience leads me to believe that if we are to get this sort of evidence two conditions at present unsatisfied have to be fulfilled. First, those in the highest office must take active note of limited evidence placed before them and have a desire ruthlessly to pursue the truth. Secondly, there must be machinery for the conduct of investigations.

May I illustrate these needs from my own experience? Long before the Lynskey Tribunal I came, for various reasons, into contact with big French investments) are not very poor; and not only because "non-associables" are unwarrantably left out. Even within EDF beneficiaries, the richer you are, the more aid you get. The desperately poor victims of drought in Niger, Mali and Chad have received much less than the employees of French concerns in the Ivory Coast, Gabon and Senegal.

On development policy, as on much else, the United Kingdom "anti-EEC lobby" fights the wrong enemy. The Brussels bureaucrats are much more responsive to the needs of poor people than the national pressure groups, but are too weak to deal with them.

Yours truly,
M. LIPTON,
H. W. SINGER,
Institute of Development Studies,
Andrew Cohen Building,
Falmer,
Brighton,
April 30.

From Mr Blake Pinnell
Sir, Your advocacy that our currency should be made fully convertible into gold, both internally and externally, appears to overlook the fact that our country is not the only official gold reserves appear to be comparable to those of Austria, less than those of Belgium and Holland, much less than those of Italy, France and Germany, and far below those of the United States.

If we are to believe that our pound notes are truly convertible into gold, we shall need to get hold of a lot of it quickly. How do you propose that we do so?

Yours faithfully,
BLAKE PINNELL,
Mona Cottage,
Ballakiphric,
Islip, Man.,
May 1.

Uncovering corruption in public affairs

A few years later, when I had left the House, I wrote to Tony Greenwood, the editor of the *Times*, about the conditions which existed in the North and particularly the North East, and that he ought, as Minister, to do something to root out the corruption; I told him that I should be glad to help. He replied that if I presented him with evidence of guilt, he would take the necessary action, but that in the meantime he could do nothing. In all these cases a proper determination to root out corruption and the existence of machinery to do so would have reduced the level of corruption which we have experienced.

May I add one further comment on this? It is not, as some would like to say, a blurred dividing line between what is right and wrong. Every man in a public position of trust knows when he is doing wrong. The public should not accept any excuses, neither should they give any quarter when these men fall below the standard which is required of them.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHEPHERD,
17 Grosvenor Street,
Portman Square, W1,
May 2.

From Mr Henry Cecil
Sir, Under the present law we have not newspapers the privilege which Lord Shawcross, in his letter to you in *The Times* (May 2), says that they ought to have? I suggest that they have, if the following propositions of law, taken from decided cases, are correct.

- (1) An occasion is privileged when a person makes a statement which has a legal, social or moral interest or duty to communicate to another person who has a corresponding interest or duty to receive it.
- (2) The interest may be in respect of very varied and different matters. The only limitation is that it should be something legitimate and proper and not merely an interest which is due to idle curiosity or a desire to gossip.
- (3) The freedom of the journalist is an ordinary part of the freedom of the subject and to whatever lengths the subject in general may go so also may the journalist, with one qualification. The journalist must have regard to the extent of his publication and must therefore be more sure of his ground than the individual, as he has no legitimate interest in publishing insufficiently supported suspicions.

Does not an editor fall within these propositions when he publishes something of great importance to the public, provided he honestly believes on reasonable grounds in the truth of what he has published?

The Justice Working Party, to which Lord Shawcross refers, stated in its Report: "The law does not recognize that newspapers have a duty to publish matters which are of public interest and importance." (My

italics.) Perhaps not, but the Report said nothing about newspapers' interest. Does not every national newspaper have a legitimate common interest with its readers to give them information of general public importance, which after careful investigation its editor believes to be true, even though it turns out to be false? Just as one has a common interest with one's friend, who is about to employ a cook, to tell him in good faith, though in error, that she poisoned her last employer.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY CECIL,
6 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
May 2.

From Mr John May
Sir, Your report on the Government's decision to increase the Arts Council's grant by only 8.3 per cent for the year just beginning is indeed alarming when seen against the background of rising prices and of general economic circumstances in the performing arts.

The trade unions are claiming substantial increases in the growing and improved working conditions, some of which would decrease potential income-earning capacity at the box office. Musicians, dancers and actors pay the same prices as engineers and other professionals. The unions, however, their employers cannot look to technological advance or productivity agreements to generate more income from that to meet these demands. These prices have already been raised substantially by VAT. The Arts Council has absorbed a large part of the increase which the public is prepared to pay. Overheads and administrative costs are already pruned to the minimum and the Arts Council itself has almost every other item will be a direct addition to total costs.

The orchestras and theatres supported by the Arts Council, which provide a salary to the growing audiences in all parts of Britain, will therefore need more money from the Council and from local authorities in 1974-75 and 1975-76 than is currently forecast to be available. Sir Hugh Wilton's personal visits to major local authorities are well conceived and may result in a significant increase in their grants. However, if the community is to have the orchestral concerts, opera and ballet which it clearly regards as essential features of its leisure hours, the Arts Council itself must have a substantially increased grant this year.

The Government has shown recently that money can be found for things it believes important—and in much larger amounts than are needed to deal fully with this problem in the arts. In the tradition of Jennie Lee, there should now be an immediate announcement that the Arts Council's grant-in-aid for 1974-75 will be raised from the proposed £18.8m to at least £21m.

Yours truly,
JOHN MAY, Secretary,
Association of British Orchestras,
32 Arlington Way, EC1.

From Mr John Newton Chance
Sir, The Editor of *The Sunday Times* says journalists are dedicated to the truth. Wrong. Journalists are dedicated to the story. Truth, perhaps, comes after.

Yours etc.,
JOHN NEWTON CHANCE,
St Clement, Liskeard,
Cornwall,
May 1.

Dedicated journalists

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St Clement, Liskeard,
Cornwall,
May 1.

Holding a referendum

From Mr Terry Mullins
Sir, Surely the first logical step, if we are to have a referendum, is to hold a referendum on whether things should be decided by referendum.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY MULLINS,
Newcastle Abbey College,
Dalketh,
Midlothian.

Two nations in Ireland

From Mr David Howell, Conservative MP for Guildford
Sir, Your correspondents offering various "solutions" for Northern Ireland I know mean well. But do they really comprehend the appalling and intractable nature of the problem now? It is not a question of large and irreconcilable populations who need to be dragged apart or given a different status or whatever. It is not a problem of finding a formula to satisfy the bulk of the people of Northern Ireland. If that were all the problem would be solved already—by the creation of the power-sharing executive which commands—according to a recent opinion poll—a hefty 69 per cent support from the people of the province.

Not the uniquely appalling nature of the Northern Ireland situation, as it is now, lies in the fact that it is being perpetuated by small, intensely violent minorities who are determined to pursue their activities in complete defiance of the greater and true majority of Northern Ireland's people. Every time they read about "solutions", such as shifting whole communities or "letting them fight it out" or "martial law", they rub their hands with delight. The chaos and civil breakdown they seek comes nearer in sight.

Every time some fearless tribune of the people calls for withdrawal of British troops (egged on by Sir Roy Mason's irrepressible asides), that is sweet music to the ears of the Provisionals and the loyalist extremists alike. For the former it is hailed as "one more push, boys, and they're out". For the latter, talk of withdrawal is the best recruiting sergeant there could be to the ranks of armed Protestant violence. For the power-sharing executive, for moderation and for the true majority it is one more knife in the back.

As for the consequences of actually withdrawing British troops, speculating on the idea, which is damaging enough, are even these dimly understood? The Provisionals would seize and control large areas of the province. The Protestants would take up arms. The power-sharing executive would be swept away. Civil war—on a scale making even the horrors so far looted minor—would commence.

And the outcome? Who can say? Certainly many more deaths. Normal civil life, which has been so defiantly and effectively maintained to date, would cease. Millions of pounds of United Kingdom industry would be wiped out. And how would the situation be resolved? It would surely spread to British cities: it would almost certainly bring world involvement. Every artery of British life would be poisoned from the limb we tried to back off. For our country it would be the final humiliation with all the political consequences which a national and military humiliation would bring.

The present path, as set out at Sunningdale, is hellish difficult. No one country it would be the final humiliation with all the political consequences which a national and military humiliation would bring.

DAVID HOWELL,
House of Commons,
May 2.

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Sir, Your report on the Government's decision to increase the Arts Council's grant by only 8.3 per cent for the year just beginning is indeed alarming when seen against the background of rising prices and of general economic circumstances in the performing arts.

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SPORT

Racing

Apalachee has speed to pass an extreme 2,000 Guineas test

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

It would be hard to imagine a more fascinating 2,000 Guineas than today's race, which ought to captivate a huge audience at Newmarket. Apalachee, by all accounts the best of the three-year-old colts in Europe, will need to be all that he has been cracked up to be to cope with Northern Taste, Escorial and Nonalco.

Superlatives have been showered upon his head like confetti ever since he won the Observer Gold Cup at Doncaster last autumn. Now we will see whether all that praise was justified, because, make no mistake, this is an extreme test and if he wins and wins well this afternoon, Vincent O'Brien really will have cause to think that he has found a successor to Sir Ivor and Nijinsky, who both won the 2,000 Guineas before they won the Derby.

Much as I would love to see Habat compensate Peter Walwyn and Pat Eddery for their narrow and perhaps unjustified defeat in the 1,000 Guineas on Thursday, I still think that today will show that Habat, along with all the others, was simply unlucky. Apalachee was foaled in the same year as Apalachee. There was a time when I never thought I would be opposing Nonalco, I watched him win the Prix Morny in breathtaking style last August, breaking the course record in the process. In the last week of confidence in Nonalco has evaporated somewhat and the French have really come over in a big way to Northern Taste.

Northern Taste could not have won his first race this season, the Prix Djebel, more impressively. He seemed in, at the time, to be coming with complete contempt, yet only last Sunday Medinas drew attention to that form when he won the French 2,000 Guineas. Northern Taste is clearly a good colt, but I cannot overlook the fact that he was beaten half a length by Missislian at Longchamp last September, and that it was Missislian whom Apalachee brushed aside so

casually when he won the Observer Gold Cup. Everything points to Apalachee being exceptional. Habat, no matter what they say down at Findon, is surely the hope of the home side. True, Giacometti won both the Gaiety Stakes and the Champagne Stakes, but he was more workmanlike than impressive, and he seems to lack Habat's sparkle. He has done particularly well in his career by winning the Middle Park Stakes here in the autumn. He began this season by winning his trial at Ascot unimpeachably, quickening to put the issue beyond doubt inside the last furlong as only a really good colt could have done. He has done particularly well physically in the meantime. What now remains to be seen is whether either he, Northern Taste or Nonalco can get Apalachee ruffled when the race comes to the boil racing down the hill into the dip. Some are of the opinion that such a long-striding colt as Apalachee may not have the speed to win over only a mile. However, surely any horse capable of holding his own with Thatch and Home Guard at home, is likely to be a deficient speed? Thatch was the best miler in Europe last year, and Home Guard was beaten only a head in the Stewards' Cup carrying 131 lb.

It was with those two that Apalachee did his last important work before he was sent to Doncaster, and what is more, he made his elders fully aware of his presence. That was irrefutable evidence that he has all the speed in the world, and the speed necessary to win a Guineas. Apalachee is, I think, the most beautifully relaxed mover I have ever seen. Unofficial choice that this may be, he is my selection, and I expect to see him win his classic shortly after he has beaten Northern Taste and Habat.

Witgenstein, the third challenger from France, is considered to be inferior to both Northern Taste and Nonalco by our French correspondents and his form reads that way. He finished four and a half lengths behind Missislian and Nonalco in the Grand Critérium. Welsh Harmony and Dolewood were both exposed somewhat cruelly by Glen Stray in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury, especially when one realises that Glen Stray is no mean runner today and as he is said to be inferior to Giacometti.

Dragona Palace was beaten a neck by Dolewood in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot. Son of Silver is a half-brother to Alton Pike, who, no more than half a dozen months ago, Son of Silver is still a maiden and it will be an even bigger shock to the system if he were to win the 2,000 Guineas. Super Red, Gavin Hunter's first runner in a Classic, won his trial at Kempton Park gamely enough, but even at his best he is no more than a good handicapper.

Escorial, the winter favourite for the Oaks, makes his first appearance as three-year-old in the Pretty Polly Stakes. Gold Coast, Evening Venture and Stribziba, all smart fillies, were withdrawn after their first start on Tuesday. Escorial ought to win more or less as he has won all on this day 12 months ago. Son of Silver is still a maiden and it will be an even bigger shock to the system if he were to win the 2,000 Guineas.

Escorial's owner and breeder—her third success of the week. My new favourite for the Oaks is Escorial. Lord Forchester may also see his weak crown with a winner in the Egerton Stakes, shaped particularly well behind Divine King and Legal Eagle at Newbury a fortnight ago, well enough in fact to hope that he will beat Rocasereña now.

The Palace House Stakes has blossomed into an excellent sprint. The Blues, the only three-year-old in the field, beat Rapid River at Haydock Park in a season when he won the Verdon's Cup, the last important sprint of the season. But the ground was soft that day and Rapid River was not at his best. He is a much better horse racing on dry ground, a point he has underlined more than once in the past, especially at Newbury, when he beat Brave Lad at Haydock Park and Silver God and Supreme Gift at Leicester. Singing Eagle, second in the same race, is very fast on his day, but he does like to have everything his own way and I doubt whether he will win this time. Rapid River is preferred.

Cock of the Walk, the horse that Singing Eagle just pipped at Epsom last week, ought to win the Stewards' Stakes at Beverley, where My Drifter looks a good bet to win the John Holt Stakes. He has finished third and fourth behind Oued Dudley already this season, but his opposition is not as strong.

STATE OF GOING (official): Newmarket, 1.20. Apalachee, 1.20.10. Northern Taste, 1.20.15. Escorial, 1.20.20. Nonalco, 1.20.25. Habat, 1.20.30. Dragona Palace, 1.20.35. Super Red, 1.20.40. Gavin Hunter, 1.20.45. Escorial, 1.20.50. Lord Forchester, 1.20.55. Dragona Palace, 1.21.00. Super Red, 1.21.05. Gavin Hunter, 1.21.10. Escorial, 1.21.15. Lord Forchester, 1.21.20. Dragona Palace, 1.21.25. Super Red, 1.21.30. Gavin Hunter, 1.21.35. Escorial, 1.21.40. Lord Forchester, 1.21.45. Dragona Palace, 1.21.50. Super Red, 1.21.55. Gavin Hunter, 1.22.00. Escorial, 1.22.05. Lord Forchester, 1.22.10. Dragona Palace, 1.22.15. Super Red, 1.22.20. Gavin Hunter, 1.22.25. Escorial, 1.22.30. Lord Forchester, 1.22.35. Dragona Palace, 1.22.40. Super Red, 1.22.45. Gavin Hunter, 1.22.50. Escorial, 1.22.55. Lord Forchester, 1.23.00. Dragona Palace, 1.23.05. Super Red, 1.23.10. Gavin Hunter, 1.23.15. Escorial, 1.23.20. Lord Forchester, 1.23.25. Dragona Palace, 1.23.30. Super Red, 1.23.35. Gavin Hunter, 1.23.40. Escorial, 1.23.45. Lord Forchester, 1.23.50. Dragona Palace, 1.23.55. Super Red, 1.24.00. Gavin Hunter, 1.24.05. Escorial, 1.24.10. Lord Forchester, 1.24.15. Dragona Palace, 1.24.20. Super Red, 1.24.25. Gavin Hunter, 1.24.30. Escorial, 1.24.35. Lord Forchester, 1.24.40. Dragona Palace, 1.24.45. Super Red, 1.24.50. Gavin Hunter, 1.24.55. Escorial, 1.25.00. Lord Forchester, 1.25.05. Dragona Palace, 1.25.10. Super Red, 1.25.15. Gavin Hunter, 1.25.20. Escorial, 1.25.25. Lord Forchester, 1.25.30. Dragona Palace, 1.25.35. Super Red, 1.25.40. Gavin Hunter, 1.25.45. Escorial, 1.25.50. Lord Forchester, 1.25.55. Dragona Palace, 1.26.00. Super Red, 1.26.05. Gavin Hunter, 1.26.10. Escorial, 1.26.15. Lord Forchester, 1.26.20. Dragona Palace, 1.26.25. Super Red, 1.26.30. Gavin Hunter, 1.26.35. Escorial, 1.26.40. Lord Forchester, 1.26.45. Dragona Palace, 1.26.50. Super Red, 1.26.55. Gavin Hunter, 1.27.00. Escorial, 1.27.05. Lord Forchester, 1.27.10. Dragona Palace, 1.27.15. 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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

MONEY GROWS THICK AND FAST IN THE Huddersfield Building Society



Norwegian gas from Frigg field may not be piped to Britain

Roger Vioveyre, Energy Correspondent. The British Gas Corporation has announced that it is not planning to acquire all the gas from the Anglo-Norwegian gas field in the North Sea...

Rises of up to 40pc on cement from mid-May

By Hugh Clayton. The price of cement will rise by as much as 40 per cent in some areas on May 15. Manufacturers said yesterday that the maximum increase could have been halved if the Government had allowed them to continue their traditional pricing agreement...

Italian minister affirms that import measures do not conflict with interests of Community

From Roger Berchoud, Brussels, May 3. Signor Emilio Colombo, the Italian Minister for the Treasury, tried today to convince the European Commission that his government's imposition of a 50 per cent deposit on essential imports was not an anti-EEC measure but an internal one to regulate domestic liquidity...

4 more US banks lift prime rates to 11pc

Four more United States banks have raised their prime rates to 11 per cent. They are California Bank, the Crocker National Bank of San Francisco and the National Bank of Detroit and Girard Bank...

New Scottish oil strategy

Mr Bruce Millan, Minister for Scotland, yesterday announced steps intended to establish a "clear planning framework" within which the Government's oil strategy in Scotland could be developed...

Whitehall gives grocers scope on cheaper lines

Shopkeepers who sell the 44 groceries earmarked for the Government's price-cutting scheme will not have to offer more than about 15 per cent of their goods at a reduced price...

Attack on 'inadequate' advertising reforms

By Patricia Tisdall. One of the toughest attacks ever made on British advertising practice was delivered yesterday by Mr John Methven, the Director-General of Fair Trading. He said at the close of the Advertising Association conference in Brighton yesterday that despite the recent reforms he doubted whether the voluntary system for regulating advertising was adequate for present needs...

German trade surplus lower than expected

By Mervyn Westlake. The West German trade surplus for March, released yesterday after a 24-hour delay, proved to be rather lower than had been widely expected, although still very substantial. The Federal Statistics Office revealed that the surplus last month was DM4,631m (£777m), compared with DM5,073m in February...

Gilts and equities hold week's gains

Both gilt-edged stocks and ordinary shares had a quieter session yesterday, but found no difficulty in holding on to the gains of the past week. The FT index closed 0.7 down at 307.8 after 307.8 earlier, while The Times index, at 121.36 showed a net fall of 0.27.

SC offer values 13 1/2 pence shares at 13 1/2 pence earnings

Our Financial Staff. The terms of the British Steel Corporation offer for the Lye steel stockholding group do not set a high value on the shares did those by which Guest & West have finally gained control of Miles Druc...

Concorde chief wants American partnership pact

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent. A new appeal for a joint United States-Anglo-French Concorde airliner programme has been made by Sir George Edwards, chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation, developers with Aerospace, of France, of the Concorde...

SEC cites Penn and associates on fraud charges

From Frank Vogl, Washington, May 3. The United States Department of Justice has been given full access to the information on fraud in the Penn Central Company, gathered by the Securities and Exchange Commission...

American drugs group in £11m bid for Gold Cross

By Anthony Rowley. An £11m takeover bid—taking the highly unusual form of a share offer rather than cash—was announced last night by G. D. Searle, the American pharmaceuticals group, for Gold Cross Hospital Supplies, the London-based manufacturer of the distributor of hospital supplies...

Court plea to veto Crest bid is adjourned

High Court proceedings to prevent the proposed bid by Crest International Securities for Ashbourne Investments were adjourned yesterday until next Tuesday, when further evidence should be available. The case, in which the City Takeover Panel is named as a defendant, centres around efforts by Mr David Tannen, a Crest shareholder and a director of a number of its subsidiaries...

MPs' Canadian trip

Eight MPs and a Liberal peer fly to Canada tomorrow to visit CANDU nuclear stations at Pickering and Bruce, Ontario, at the invitation of the Canadian Government. The four Labour and four Conservative MPs include Mr Patrick Jenkin, Opposition spokesman on energy; and Mr Arthur Falmer, chairman of the Select Committee on Science and Technology. The Liberal is Lord Avebury.

£40m PO spending plan

The Post Office telecommunications department aims to spend more than £40m over the next 10 years updating equipment in the north-eastern region, which stretches from Lincolnshire to the Scottish border. Among some 250 orders is one for building a new telephone exchange, the first of its type in the north-east, at Rerehill, Leeds.

1,600 jobs created

Development on land made available by the British Steel Corporation will bring 1,600 new jobs to Hartlepool in the next few years, BSC announced yesterday. Smart and Brown, a subsidiary of Thorn Electrical Industries, is to develop 25 acres of the BSC site at Brenda Road, Hartlepool.

10 payments to Lucas strike

A dispute involving 600 production workers in the Lucas organization ended yesterday with a company agreeing to pay £10 to ex gratia payment to compensate for loss of earnings. The workers, from the Lucas diecast works plant in Birmingham, had been on strike for a week but yesterday agreed to return on Monday at Lucas negotiating a wage agreement with toolsetters. But at a meeting the production workers agreed to go back after hearing that the Pay Board had set the deal with the workers. They had stayed away in protest at Lucas negotiating a wage agreement with toolsetters. But at a meeting the production workers agreed to go back after hearing that the Pay Board had set the deal with the workers.

Lord Stokes gives his staff all the facts on outlook

By Clifford Webb. British Leyland has launched a big communications exercise to tell its 171,000 employees in Britain "the facts" about the group's problems and its hopes. The first step yesterday was a unique all-day meeting in an hotel at Solihull, Warwickshire, between Lord Stokes and the whole of his executive board on the one hand and 375 managers, staff representatives and shop stewards from all 59 United Kingdom factories on the other. Lord Stokes told the gathering: "This conference is the direct result of management's review of, firstly, what information should be available to employees in respect of the company's plans and trading position—particularly at a time when our industry is facing a period of considerable uncertainty—and secondly, how to communicate such information to employees in an organization of this size. The meeting was held in private but a company spokesman gave a short outline of the proceedings. He said that Mr John Barber, managing director, had briefed employees on the depressed state of the car market and outlined the range of new models in the pipeline with a special emphasis on economy motoring. Mr Alex Park, finance director, had spent out the implications of the group's £16.6m loss in the first half of the present financial year. Cowley inquiry: Mr Arthur Davies, a Coventry magistrate, is to lead the seven-man inquiry into the activities of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Cowley. The inner cabinet of the union's midland region committee is to look into British Leyland's reasons for refusing to recognize Mr Alan Thornett as a shop steward.

How the markets moved

Table with columns: Rises, Falls, Equities remained steady, On other pages. Lists various market movements and prices.

THE POUND

Table with columns: Bank buys, Bank sells. Lists exchange rates for various currencies.

Antony Gibbs' answer to the Finance Bill. Advertisement for financial planning services, including contact information and a coupon.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

A change in Government is bringing yet another change in the treatment of children's income for tax purposes—the third in five years.

Before April 6, 1969, a child's income was treated as his own. The only exception was that if parents provided the income it was taxed as the parents' income.

There were a few important exceptions, such as income arising from damages in respect of personal injury or disease, income from lump-sum awards by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and affiliation payments received by an unmarried mother in respect of her child.

The consequences of this were that where the parents' income was near or within the surtax bracket the family was penalized by a heavier surtax bill. Also, as the income no longer belonged to the child he or she was unable to claim a tax repayment for the personal allowance. In its place the parents could claim the child allowance but this was poor compensation.

Divorced and separated wives with custody of the children were particularly hard hit because both their own and their children's maintenance was—and still is—treated as unearned income despite the fact it is in most cases paid out of the earned income of the husband. As a result no earned income relief could be claimed.

From April 6, 1972, this aggregation principle was withdrawn and the old law reinstated. However, in the recent Budget of the Labour Government we are told that from April 6, 1975, the pendulum will swing back to aggregation. The first Finance Bill did not include the provision for the aggregation of children's income but it is now understood that the Government is in a position to reinstate it. It is to be hoped that the Chancellor will, in the intervening months before the publication of the second Finance Bill, reconsider the taxation position of divorced and separated mothers who will be badly hit by the proposed change.

Apart from aggregation itself, they will have the additional burden, not present in 1969-1972, of the investment income surcharge. If the children are receiving maintenance payments in their own right they will lose the benefit of the £1,000 surcharge exemption.

Their maintenance will be aggregated with their mother's income from April 6, 1975, and the combined maintenance will be liable, at the 15 per cent rate as well as the 10 per cent rate, subject of course to the mother's £1,000 exemption.

In many cases the father will have little or no investment income and the maintenance payments will be paid out of his earned income. He will get no relief for the investment income surcharge paid by his wife or ex-wife. She is burdened with a heavier liability for which there is no compensating relief.

Let us hope that the legislators who have second thoughts before this particular piece of law becomes a reality.

Insurance

Settling 'without prejudice' claims

It is an unfortunate fact that, on too many occasions, making a claim on an insurance policy develops into a kind of horse-trading.

One puts in a claim, and the insurers turn it down altogether; one argues, and they offer to settle for less than the amount which one claimed; however, still holding to their original view that they are not obliged to pay anything.

Or the insurers may admit liability at the outset but be prepared to argue at length about the amount of the settlement. Some insurers have good reputations over claims settlement. Their premiums may not be the lowest on the market, but most reasonable people would prefer to pay a fair price and not be dissatisfied when it comes to making a claim.

One phrase which is likely to crop up in claims correspondence is "without prejudice". It is a strange phrase, especially when there appears to be a considerable amount of prejudice displayed in the text of a letter which heads.

In 1889 a judge defined the phrase when he said, "I think they mean without prejudice to the position of the writer of the letter if the terms he proposes are not accepted." And that is still looked upon as the meaning.

This means that if the insurers (or you) head a letter with those magic words, any statements or admissions which are made in the correspondence (or interview) cannot be referred to if the dispute ultimately goes to court.

That may seem strange, since any progress made out of court on a "without prejudice" basis will be lost if the case does have to go to court, however, rather than being simply a ploy to make more work for lawyers it can be a great help in getting a settlement out of court.

By using the phrase "without prejudice" each side can be frank and be prepared to give a little to obtain an out-of-court settlement—without running the risk that any ground given in this way will be taken as a matter of course if the dispute should end up in court.

Understandably, bargaining would not be on such "generous" lines if those taking part in the bargaining felt that any concession offered could be revealed in the course of a subsequent court case.

Sometimes it is argued that a statement made "without prejudice" is really privileged. In fact, privilege arises only when a witness does not wish to disclose facts or documents because it would be to his disadvantage to do so.

If, on the other hand, a statement is made "without prejudice" the witness may not disclose the facts, even though he might very much like to do so. For instance, the other side may

have made an offer in the past, on a "without prejudice" basis, and the witness will not be able to mention it in court.

Normally, if one letter is marked "without prejudice", this is taken to apply to the whole of the subsequent correspondence. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, it is probably sensible that each separate item should be marked in this way.

For instance, the first letter might be lost, or there could be argument as to whether all the subsequent letters were part of the same correspondence.

Sometimes, correspondence can be treated in this way, even if it has not been marked. For instance, it is open to a court to infer that the circumstances in which the correspondence was written were such that it was intended that the letter in question should not be used in evidence.

In this event, the court can treat the correspondence as being "without prejudice" even though the phrase has not been used by the person writing the letter.

On the other hand, merely marking everything "without prejudice" does not mean that you can negotiate and, if you do, you can go to court and try to do better there.

If you reach an agreement on one point on a "without prejudice" basis—say on where the liability rests—but cannot agree on the amount which shall be paid, you cannot go to court and start from scratch.

The court will deal with the second aspect, and the court will take the view that the agreement as to liability is binding, even though it was arrived at on a "without prejudice" basis.

So, although one may think that correspondence marked "without prejudice" cannot be produced in court, if there is any dispute about a settlement reached in that way and this dispute goes to court, the correspondence may very well be produced. This would be to ascertain whether an agreement was reached and whether it should be binding on both parties, even though certain other aspects may remain unresolved.

The chances are that, with the everyday claims which you are likely to encounter, one of your chief ambitions will be to keep it out of court at all costs. Nevertheless, if you are prepared to make a concession to insurers so as to obtain a settlement (even though you feel, strictly speaking, you should not have to make them), mark your correspondence "without prejudice" so that this bargaining is conducted at a private level and, if it should be necessary to resolve the dispute in court, your concessions will not be revealed.

John Drummond

Mortgages

Semi-detached pension fund

The biggest investors in the country are the institutions—the insurance companies and pension funds, which between them hold some £26,000m of assets. An infinitesimal amount of this total wealth is channelled into the private housing market.

A few insurance offices do offer higher priced loans on substantial properties, largely as a quid pro quo for brokers who direct other, more profitable business in their direction.

If some of the resources of the institutions could be applied in the private housing sector it could ease the existing pressure on building societies. But, it might not make it necessary any easier for the first time buyer, on the lower income rungs, to obtain a loan for the house of his choice.

It overlooks the basic problem that building societies do impose borrowing limits, related to the individual's earning power, and that already expensive houses (particularly in the South East)

could become more expensive still following a sudden large inflow of funds into the building society market.

John Stanley, the Conservative MP for Tonbridge and Malling, has put forward a new proposal to involve institutions as co-owners of private houses. His Shared Purchase scheme, although leaving one or two grey areas—particularly in respect of the necessary house price index which is essential for its operation and individual valuation costs—bears consideration.

The principle is that institutions, the life offices and pension funds, should deposit funds with a central housing agency of which they would earn both interest and capital dividends, based on a house price index.

The capital dividends would not involve an Exchequer subsidy—initially they would be met out of the institutions' own profit when houses in which they have an equity stake are sold.

The interest payments

(assumed in the thesis to be 8 per cent), an essential feature of the scheme if institutions are to be persuaded to sign on, Stanley acknowledges would involve an Exchequer subsidy. However, it is fair to point out that most forms of housing already do enjoy subsidies, whether privately owned or in the public rented sector.

Moreover, the alternative to more owner occupation is greater subsidies for state housing and to achieve more private house ownership at the moment, without a radical reformulation of building society financing, could also lead to increased Government subsidies in some shape or other.

The prospective house buyer, unable to obtain a loan for more than 75 per cent of the purchase price of the house, would have the remaining 25 per cent of the cost supplied by the central housing agency using institutional funds. His mortgage payments would be limited to his

building society loan, but when the house was sold 25 per cent of the profits would be returned to the central housing agency. At any time the houseowner could increase his share of the equity by paying the price agreed by independent valuation.

Judging by the response to the ill-fated London and Indemnity Insurance scheme to introduce a home-ownership profit-sharing plan, there is no reluctance on the part of borrower to experiment with this method of home ownership.

From the state's point of view the annual cost of the Stanley plan—as capital gains tax and income tax would be recoverable on the payments to the institutions—could be as little as 5.6 per cent of the total of funds invested in housing. This is certainly cheaper than the cost involved in many of the other proposals it has received.

MS

Property by any other name

I see that the Stock Exchange has been advertising for somebody to fill the newly created post of Chief Executive. After describing the job's vast responsibilities and boundless rewards, "a sense of humour", the advertisement tells us, "would help."

I absolutely agree. Indeed it has been my self-imposed task, not to say crusade, to anaesthetize the reader's senses to some extent on alternate Saturdays before they are assailed by the loathsome revelations of the share price page.

On the other hand, things may not be half as bad as they look. I fancy I heard the other day not only the first cuckoo but also the faint tinkle of that mythical bell that heralds the very horizon of the bear market. In any event, the outlook is at least better in the property world, which represents a mere adumbration of its former self at the moment.

I hope you like "adumbration", its faint outline or resemblance, it says in Webster's Rhyming Dictionary, that indispensable crutch to poets great and small, in which the words are arranged alphabetically according to their reversed spellings.

"Huzzah" comes next to "baabab" if you catch my meaning. At any rate, I came across "adumbration" when I was engaged in looking up what fine distinction had been drawn by Webster between



... reluctant millionaires with not two gold sovereigns to rub together.

"speculation" (a risky financial venture) and "reclamation" (demand for restoration; recovery).

Words ending in -ation number approximately 1,400, I was interested to find in the process, beginning with "libation" ending with "amortization" (act or right of alienating lands—how true, how very true, and spanning in the meantime no less than 14 of Webster's golden pages).

Scattered among them are a number of words the definition of which should be at the fingertips of anybody with even a passing interest in the current property scene and its various ramifications. For example: Interlocation (matrix inserted between the lines).

Sensation—

Nationalization. Played as a slow march, I felt it had exactly the right dream-like quality to encapsulate the whole property situation (sic) in a microcosm. However, whereas the property development market is indeed muttering somewhat about the nightmares of nationalization, the real dream world is now that of agricultural land.

Here values have been jacked up so much by eager institutional and syndicated investors that the yields at present prices look quite ridiculous. Some of my former friends who have for years been trying to persuade me that they are as poor as church mice, but that suddenly they have mammoth estate duty problems, too.

It gives one a curious feeling to listen to these reluctant millionaires rub together gold sovereigns to rub together.

When things get that far out of adjustment, its time for a recap, and suddenly there's nowhere to go but down. So don't say I never told you. There is a moment, and now seems to be about it, when plain old ordinary equities are the only absolute and obvious must. And that is something to bring a smile to the lips of the new Chief Executive of the Stock Exchange, sense of humour or not.

Francis Kinsman

One of Lambeth's empty houses

CASPA's blood pressure has been raised by a recent event. A house that was quite fit for human habitation has been rendered uninhabitable, and by council workmen, not by vandals.

The house in question is 607 Wandsworth Road, one of a terrace of 16 mid-Victorian cottages subject to proposed compulsory purchase under Part III of the Housing Act 1957. Part III of this Act authorises compulsory purchase of "unfit" housing and nine of these cottages are so classified. The house, 607, however, was not so classified; it is one of the other seven included in the order as "added" lands—lands not in themselves clearance areas but adjoining or surrounded by such areas and which, as such, may be so included to facilitate

Until recently much of this terrace was owned by a single landlord but he has now sold out to the council. So even before the public inquiry, let alone the ministerial decision on the majority of the houses in this Part III area including 607, are council-owned.

At the time of the sale, 607 was empty; the landlord had not relet it while negotiating with the council but, when news of the sale reached the neighbourhood market it is indeed muttering somewhat about the nightmares of nationalization, the real dream world is now that of agricultural land.

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Furthermore, another council-owned property, just along the road but still within the area, is about to be worked up by the new council. At St Paul's Church; it is understood that he is to have it for a period of three years.

On this basis and that of the year's delay in holding the public inquiry, it is reasonable to expect that the council will not start as scheduled in 1976—that is, of course, supposing that the council will act in the inquiry.

So an empty fit house could have been put to good use for a considerable period but instead, it is now a council-owned property. The council will not start as scheduled in 1976—that is, of course, supposing that the council will act in the inquiry.

Such treatment of an unfit house would appear justifiable; one can even understand the sense behind a temporary boarding-up of a fit property. Soon after the council bought it, the unboarded house for the curate

The progress of comp purchase can be slow, months Halldora Blair has reports on the active Clapham Action St Paul's (CASPA) and its fight to serve houses and a small sub-Committee. Preparation the public inquiry on its under way. In the mean what is happening to already bought by Le Council?

was vandalized; the effort voluntary workers are set to rights. But why v thought necessary to des 607 in such an apparent manner? way.

The answer may simply that a middle was indeed, only a day or so council official came to the house with a view to it let. Small wonder that C, asked of present to all con based on a note of c. "Has your administratio completely crazy?"

Further evidence that take may have been mad with another official's c sion to a local resident i house to be reinstat former condition. An information serves a purpose.

It also reassures tho were concerned by yet official's visit. He had ask of present to all con where they would prefe moved to; he indicated two to three months the be vacating their hom being rehoused.

This would have near ment even before the p inquiry. A protest at the owned Part III houses have done little for C argument in favour preservation of the community.

So CASPA is calming it is also taking ear recent developments. Town Hall. Perhaps ac to what CASPA has long maintained—that th pulsory purchase and re ment; programme is ov tious, will start on arg; that caused undue h hardship—and also und sure from local se organizations, the Housi mittee and Department considering policy. In pa question of making imp of what is known as sh housing, houses such Wandsworth Road.

Halldora

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table with multiple columns listing financial data for various units, insurance, and offshore funds. Includes columns for unit names, bid offers, and yields.

INTERIM STATEMENT DELTA INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED Interim Statement (unaudited) Net deficit for six month period ending 29th January, 1974 B.Dirs 10,374 (B.Dirs 6,833 deficit). Investments as at 29th January, 1974 B.Dirs 2,334,342 equivalent to B.Dirs 1.52 per share.

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

ICI loan terms likely to bear heavily on the Lyon Group

By John Pledger
Further details of a tough £12.5m guarantee arrangement made by the ICI pension funds in connexion with a loan to the troubled Lyon Group were revealed yesterday by Mr Norman Freeman, general manager of the ICI funds, who retires on June 30.

Mettoy profit rebounds to put group at 5-year peak

Mettoy, the "Corgi" toy group, increased pre-tax profits by five times last year to £1m following a £623,000 turnaround from loss to profits in the first 36 weeks.

Mr Joseph leaves Mount Charlotte

An after market hours statement from the board of Mount Charlotte Investments said last night that Mr Joseph had left the board and sold his share stake in this hotels and restaurants group.

Bids & deals

Gateway in £2m agreed offer for Upward & Rich

An offer worth around £2.2m for Upward & Rich, the Isle of Wight-based wholesale and retail food distributors, has come from Gateway Foodmarkets.

National seeking big US stake

Nationale-Nederlanden, the Dutch insurance leader, is considering making an offer through its affiliate, Nationale Nederlanden Insurance Co., to acquire a substantial part of the common stock of Peerless Insurance Co.

LONDON EUROPEAN SECS

Company now has 18.05 per cent of Pope & Pearson.

NFU DEVELOPMENT

Purchase of further 236,000 shares in FMC gives NFU 3.98 million shares in all.

LONDON BRIDGE-BUSHCOURT

Because of changed economic conditions L.B. not to proceed with purchase of Buscourter.

MOORE-BEYER PEACOCK

On April 11 Moore Holdings bought £50,000 of ordinary and preference shares of Peacock.

Lindop Holdings

Turnover of Lindop Holdings (textiles, etc.) for 18 months is £4.55m, £1.59m before tax and has lost to £23,000.

London & Provincial Shop

In announcing its interim results London & Provincial Shop Centres reports that it estimates the value of completed properties held for investment at March 31 to be over £20m.

Results

P. C. Henderson tops £1m and raises payment

Passing the £1m mark for the first time, the P. C. Henderson window glass group has reached a record profit of £1.2m—a rise of 23 per cent.

William Nash

On turnover up from £4.6m to £5.8m, taxable profits of William Nash, the specialist paper makers, have more than trebled to a record £375,000.

John Beales

Pre-tax profits of John Beales associated companies for the year to March 19 were slightly higher at £641,000 (£565,000).

HIGSONS BREWERY

Liverpool group's half-year taxable profit improved to £511,000 (£465,000).

HAMMERSON PROPERTY

Pro-tax profit last year rose by 24 per cent to £3.52m. Earnings a stock unit 8.73p (5.95p). Dividend distributed 6.73p (6.43p).

PATENT INDUSTRIAL

Year's loss widened from £4,000 to £25,000 before tax and after exceptional debit of £100,000.

CENTRAL PROVINCE CEYLON TEA

Last term pre-tax rose by £20,000 to £88,000. Application made to Treasury to raise dividend from 0.62p to 1.25p.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

First quarter net profits \$33.6m (\$27.2m). Earnings this year expected to rise 10 per cent over 1973's \$126m (\$1.71 a share).

MORRIS & BLAKEY

Last term turnover was £4.96m (£3.87m) and taxable profit £471,000 (£381,000).

BRIDON

Overseas profits are to show substantial increase this year, Mr Harry Smith reports.

Investor's Week

Markets are still unsure • Why prices worry cement makers

The stock market is still uncertain about where it is going. True, the long bear market appears to be drawing to a close, but so far there is little sign of any trend establishing itself yet.

Generally, though, the market is not far from the industry's prospects for the rest of this year, when a growing materials shortage and continued pressure on margins will begin to bite.

So, while gifts have been given on the view that interest rates are finally peaking out, the relative strength of equities is more a reflection of a stock shortage, when small buying in the markets coupled with some investors looking for bargains tends to have a disproportionate effect on prices.

Portland Cement has an unmatched record of 28 successive years of growth behind it and when its outspoken chairman, Sir Halford Kiddie, says, "I am not unduly pessimistic about the outlook for profits it would take a bold man to disagree."

That a price increase must come soon can be taken for granted. The industry is still awaiting a ruling from the Government on whether or not it can proceed with an application for an industry-wide increase.

Even while waiting for the Government's ruling individual companies have submitted separate price-increase applications to the Price Commission and most have already received their verdicts.

Of this kind are sufficiently akin to overdrafts to enjoy a similar degree of exemption under the new law.

Discussions between the banks and the DFPC on this point were still in progress yesterday and a compromise may yet be effected.

Whichever way this particular issue is resolved, the distinctions now being drawn between regulated and non-regulated banking activities seem likely to throw up many anomalies.

But if the meeting occurs at the nineteenth hole of a suburban golf club (where so much banking business allegedly takes place) the manager must be extremely careful in what he says.

He cannot suggest that the customer takes out a loan account, or even that he opens a new current account for the purpose, or he will be in breach of the law.

The situation, however, is very different in the field of rent account loans, where a customer effectively elects for overdraft to be transferred to a separate account.

It is true that the Government has accepted this philosophy so far as their personal and credit cards are concerned. Their boxes of consumer account loans, cheque guarantee cards and cash cards, none of their criticisms have been specific and extremely technical.

On the other hand, the Consumer Protection Act attaches great importance to the need for uniformity of legislative treatment.

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On the other hand, the Consumer Protection Act attaches great importance to the need for uniformity of legislative treatment.

Unit trust performance

Table with columns for Unit Trust Name, 1973 Performance, and 1974 Performance. Includes entries like Crescent Reserves, Allied High Income, and various equity and bond funds.

profit per tonne of cement delivered could halve from its 1973 level. However, Rowe, Swann is reckoning on a price rise of not less than 10 per cent becoming effective from the middle of the year.

It estimates this would restrict the fall in profit per tonne to around 15 per cent, this figure not including the increase in the cost of coal for which it assumes subsequent price rises will compensate.

These projections are likely to be on the conservative side. The industry is seeking an application for an increase of £150 a tonne which is equivalent to about 16 per cent and it is also presently talking of applying for a further increase to compensate for the recent round of wage negotiations.

On Rowe, Swann's conservative estimates, APCM's profits (deducting the adjustment for inflation) will fall from £34.02m to £28.5m and Rugby's from £10.9m to £10.5m, but obviously these sums will look different in the event of a bigger price increase.

The problem is unlikely to be one of production. APCM has a large capacity and it can sell all the cement it can produce—there is a severe world shortage of cement—but it will not be possible to catch up fully with the output losses in the first quarter.

Cement deliveries are likely to fall by up to 8 per cent and this level should be broadly maintained during 1975, although substantial shortages are likely to develop in some areas in the latter part of the year.

With costs likely to rise still further, the absence of a price increase could mean that the put up their prices and are only holding back in the hope that the common pricing agreements will be overturned by the Cement Makers' Federation yesterday suggested they would not hold back beyond the middle of the month.

The importance of a price increase is clearly spelled out by stockbroker Rowe, Swann in a circular on the industry. This year, Rowe, Swann says, construction industry output will decline by 7½ per cent with no upturn likely to be seen before the middle of 1975.

Further problems will arise when a customer moves from regulated to non-regulated status, say by increasing his borrowings from £4,500 to £5,500. This will involve fine legal judgement to decide at what point a customer does or does not enjoy rights under the new law.

One problem that now appears to have been resolved is the legal position of banks who give their customers cheque guarantee cards. It originally seemed as if the banks would have to assume partial liability for the quality of any goods paid for with cheques backed by their cards.

Less clear, however, is the position of a customer who becomes more than £30 overdrawn when using a cash card to draw money from a cash dispensing machine. It is possible that he may be under no legal obligation to repay the sum unless he has previously entered into a formal overdraft agreement.

The attitude of bankers to the complexity of the 156-page Bill is indicated by the sympathy that many of them have expressed for the two peers who are attempting to add the words "Uncle Tom Cobley and all" to one of the clauses.

Even if their chief complainer—the status of current account loans—is resolved in their favour, they remain convinced that the business of banking will lose more in simplicity than it can ever gain in true consumer protection.

That, unfortunately, may be the price that has to be paid for essentially a good Bill.

Ian Morison

Round-up

Boost for term shares

Although building society net receipts now appear to be on the upturn after the movement's earlier losses, there is still a room for complacency.

However, what we are now seeing is a sudden upsurge in the introduction of "term" shares—with significantly higher interest rates. It is a welcome development.

Term shares, as the name suggests, are investments left with the building societies over a specified period of time. In return for the loss of flexibility, investors are offered the concession of a higher interest rate.

The conventional term rate of 8.5 per cent crosses up to an attractive 12.5 per cent. The point to watch is the time span between the offer of general interest but the City of London and London Investment societies, for instance, have one-year term shares.

Table with columns for Share Name, 1973 Performance, and 1974 Performance. Includes entries like Allied High Income, Dreyfus Income, and various equity and bond funds.

Statistics supplied by Mosey Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

Target Preference Share Fund advertisement. Features a large '14%' graphic and text: 'OVER 14% PER ANNUM GROSS', 'A HIGH STABLE INCOME FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE', 'Interest rates would cause the price to fall but with rates now so high the scope for a further rise seems limited. Price fluctuations would not affect your income. Indeed this fund has paid a high stable distribution for 10 years now. Remember that you should look upon your investment as a long-term one.'

Handwritten signature or note at the top right of the page.

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

UNIQUE Complete seduction, almost in the centre of Esher

IN OVER 6 ACRES OF EASILY MAINTAINED GROUNDS including 2 paddocks and woodland. Long, low, attractive colonial style house standing on high ground facing south and approached by beautiful tree-lined drive over 300 yards long.

Accommodation consisting of 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, breakfast room, kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and staff wing with 4 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Stables and 4 garages. Planning consent to build additional staff bungalow with garage space for 3 cars and large stable block. 10 mins. walk from Sandown Park Racecourse.

Private tunnel to 9-hole Golf Course bordering the grounds.

Substantial price required for the FREEHOLD.

Telephone: Esher 65310

BURNHAM, BUCKS

An attractive Regency Country House, well situated in 3-acre garden and paddock. 7 large bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, large lounge opening on to garden, dining room, fully fitted modern kitchen, laundry, double garage, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

For further details: Telephone Burnham (062 86) 5881.

CAWSEND UNSPOLL FISHING VILLAGE, IN CORNWALL

1977 semi detached purpose built house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full kitchen, living room, dining room, double garage, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Telephone: MILLBROOK 668

HOVE

Central investment. Large property on six floors, consisting of 2 self contained 1 bed flats plus 12 rooms. 2 b.c.h. w.c.s., garden plus patio.

Further details: Milligan, Bristol 25032 (office hours)

WYBRIDGE, NR. ST GEORGE'S HILL

Stunningly high level house. Large detached garden. 3 beds, study, dining, living, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Further details: Milligan, Bristol 25032 (office hours)

THAMES ISLAND HOME

2/3 beds, lounge, modern kitchen and bathroom. All mains: full gas, 40% deep discounts: country surroundings, only 16 miles from Heath.

Telephone: 01-668 5688

OXFORDSHIRE CHILTERNES

Selected Country House near village in area of outstanding natural beauty. 10 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Telephone: 01-668 5688

OLD BOSHAM WEST SUSSEX

Attractive modern house with walled garden in well known village. Full gas, 40% deep discounts: country surroundings, only 16 miles from Heath.

Telephone: 01-668 5688

50 MILES LONDON

In quiet Essex, detached 3 bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, full kitchen, living room, dining room, double garage, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Telephone: 01-668 5688

OLD BOSHAM FULLY FORMED, READY TO MOVE INTO

Fullly furnished, ready to move into. 10 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Telephone: 01-668 5688

LONDON AND SUBURBAN

Hurlingham, S.W.6 RANELAGH AVENUE

Large and light Edwardian family house in exclusive area. Completely modernised. Gas C.H. 4 double, 1 single beds, 2 baths, 3 w.c.s., first floor sitting room, dining room, playroom. Large Hygena kitchen, laundry room, cellar. Conservatory. Garden and off street parking. Freehold.

566,500.00. Tel: 01-736 2617

BARNES

Quiet cul-de-sac 1 min. from 30ft. lounge, 22ft. newly modernised kitchen/diner, 4 beds, 2 bathrooms, 2 separate toilets, gas c.h., fitted carpets, marble, etc. In excellent order. 20 mins. City.

£29,500 O.N.O. TEL: 876 9035.

TEDDINGTON

Unusually attractive and well equipped stable cottage. Close all amenities, and station. Gas c.h., 3 bedrooms, open plan kitchen/diner, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Freehold £55,000.00. Telephone: 01-833 2038-2039

CLEAVER SQUARE

Close to Westminster and on tree-lined street. Fully restored and fitted. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining room, study, etc. Walled garden in charming Georgian Square.

£47,000. 01-735 1831 on Abingdon 576.

MUSWELL HILL

In quiet road, near Highgate Wood, 2 bedroom, double-fronted, end-of-terrace house. Newly fitted kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Freehold, £38,500. Phone Brighton 508418.

DELIGHTFUL SUNNY BELGRAVIA HOUSE

Only just modernised and completely redecorated. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

07-834 0478

BATTERSEA PARK

Family home, immaculate condition. Double bedroom, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

Phone Windsor 63522 for appointment.

CLANBROOK, KENT

Well furnished house with large garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

01-668 5688

NEAR TETBURY, GLOS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

01-668 5688

FLEET, HANTS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 20 mins. to London.

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NEAR TETBURY, GLOS

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